

# ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER,

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## BRAZIL.

### ANTI-SLAVERY SENTIMENT AND PROSPECTS.

THE Itaborahy Cabinet has fallen, and a new Administration has taken its place. The President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs—Visconde de S. Vicente—in announcing his acceptance of the post of Premier, named first, as urgent, the Slavery Question, as claiming “an early but a prudent solution, one which will harmonise with the grave interests involved.” During the same sitting Baron das Trez Barras, the new Minister of Justice, an old corresponding member of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, declared that the Emperor and the people,

as well as the Ministry, are in favour of Emancipation. It is quite understood and accepted that the late Ministry—of whom the Emperor and the country were weary—died friends of Slavery.

Will the new Cabinet clearly apprehend, and unflinchingly fulfil, its mission to the slave, the slave-holder, aye, and to the slave-trader, for the internal slave-trade has been and is a special curse and weakness to the noble Brazilians and their country? The owners and traders need freeing from the bondage, which regards the slave, not as a man, but as property; not as a man, robbed of his rights, for which crime the State and the master are responsible, and ought to make *him* compensation; but a chattel, for which, if freed by law, he (the owner) must have compensation.

Yet, as if the slave-owner felt that point scarcely tenable, he says, "Give me bonds for my slaves to be set free, and means shall be furnished for meeting the bonds in the shape of taxation."

If this were conceded, and taxes were to be raised on articles of common consumption, the liberated slaves would chiefly pay them; if on realised property or income, then we say, "Let the slave-owner become the fair employer of the liberated slave, and so save the taxes." If the slave, set free, get no compensation for the wrongs he endured, and no compensation for servile labour, let the owner see in him, not the chattel, but the man; and let the moral and the legal claims be a set-off one against the other.

The prevalent habit of liberating slaves to signalise births, marriages, providential deliverances, &c., carries with it a necessary correlative—if it be an act of justice, clemency, and merit to liberate any slaves, it is the opposite to keep the rest in bondage. This prevalent habit leaves on the minds of those so kept, in the main, the sickness of hope deferred—and in many cases, deep and bitter dissatisfaction—which may yet end in revolt.

Dr. Borges, in his interesting letter, inserted elsewhere, is not so unfair to the slave as the Financial Association quoted by him: they propose emancipation in thirty-two years, which to the great bulk would not be emancipation, for long before the expiration of such a term they would be emancipated by death; and the few who might survive would have outlived their power of self-maintenance.

Indeed, whatever might be the object of the Association, the effect would be the prolongation of slavery for that period, were such a thing possible; whereas Dr. Borges would effect emancipation in ten, fifteen, or twenty years.

If our Brazilian friends imagine that Slavery can be maintained much longer in the face of the civilised world, they must be stone blind to the times in which we live.

Provided the master were to be indemnified, Dr. Borges would be willing that emancipation should be immediate, but only on that condition.

Does not Dr. Borges set the legal property of the master above the Divine right of the slave: not property merely in competition with the rights of man, but far above them? Without compensation, according to Dr. Borges, immediate emancipation would be ruin to the slave-owner. Where does he find ground for such an assumption? Not in history, for the experience of every civilised nation is against him.

To give freedom to children who are too

young, and to others who are too old, to earn a living—and not giving it to those who should be helpers of both—is utterly unworthy of a great people.

We have ever felt it to be a difficulty that, with the kind treatment said to be given to slaves in Brazil, mortality should be so frightfully high among them. It is a terrible fact that the death-rate among the slaves in Brazil is far above the rate of birth.

We hope the new Ministry will ponder the matter wisely and well. Slavery is, in ideal and exercise, the antithesis of Christianity; it violates the instincts of humanity. A wrong cherished until it seems to become a necessity—until it seems to be impossible to rectify it—until the evil is called a good, or but a necessary evil—is hard to deal with; but harder in appearance than reality.

Let the new Brazilian Government give immediate and complete emancipation, and riches of security, and plenty, and comfort, and inward and outward peace, shall be theirs.

When Whittier's inspired wishes, the Emperor's cherished hopes, and the emancipation alike of the owner and slave shall be realised together, the Premier, the Visconde de S. Vicente, and the Minister of Justice, Baron das Trez Barras, and their colleagues, shall have the praises of their contemporaries, the blessings of posterity, and above all, the blessing of the Most High.

## BRAZIL, THE EMPEROR, AND SLAVERY.

BY J. G. WHITTIER.

[The noble aspirations, breathed in the following lines, may, we trust, ere long, be fully realised.—Ed. A.-S. R.]

With clearer light, Cross of the South, shine forth  
In blue Brazilian skies:  
And thou, O river, cleaving half the earth  
From sunset to sunrise,  
From the great mountains of the Atlantic waves  
Thy joy's long anthem pour,  
Yet a few days (God make them less!) and slaves  
Shall shame thy pride no more.  
No fettered feet thy shaded margins press;  
But all men shall walk free  
Where thou, the high-priest of the wilderness,  
Hast wedded sea to sea.

And thou, Great-Hearted Ruler, through whose mouth  
The word of God is said,  
Once more, "Let there be light!"—Son of the South,  
Lift up thy honoured head.  
Wear unashamed a crown by thy desert  
More than by birth thy own,  
Careless of watch and ward; thou art begirt  
By grateful hearts alone.  
The moated wall and battle-ship may fail,  
But safe shall justice prove,  
Stronger than greaves of brass or iron make  
The panoply of love.

Crowned doubly by man's blessing and God's grace  
 Thy future is secure;  
 Who frees a people makes his statue's place  
 In Time's Valhalla sure.  
 Lo! from his Neva's banks the Scythian Czar  
 Stretches to thee his hand,  
 Who, with the pencil of the Northern star,  
 Wrote freedom on his land,  
 And he whose grave is holy by our calm  
 And prairied Sangamon,  
 From his gaunt hand shall drop the martyr's palm  
 To greet thee with "Well done!"

And thou, O earth, with smiles thy face make sweet,  
 And let thy wail be stilled,  
 To hear the Muse of prophecy repeat  
 Her promise half fulfilled.  
 The voice that spake at Nazareth speaks still,  
 No sound thereof hath died.  
 Alike thy hope and Heaven's eternal will  
 Shall yet be satisfied.  
 The years are slow, the vision tarrieth long,  
 And far the end may be;  
 But, one by one, the fiends of ancient wrong  
 Go out and leave the free.

### CHANGE OF MINISTRY.

On the 16th September last, in the Brazilian Senate, the then Minister of Agriculture defended his views for the encouragement of emigration, read some extracts from newspapers, showing the profitable results of coolie labour, and his budget was accepted by the house. On the 12th of that month, in the Chamber of Deputies, the members decided, by 54 votes to 21, to accept a bill proposed by the Government, authorizing the freeing, gratuitously, of the national slaves given in usufruct to the Crown, and of other national slaves; and to the passing of a bill introduced last year, providing for the registration of all slaves,—in preference to the bill of the Special Committee on Slavery.

The Itaborahy Ministry, taking even this step on compulsion, still tried to stave off any action on the Slave question generally.

On the 27th September the Prime Minister (Visconde de Itaborahy) announced to the Senate that he and his colleagues had resigned office, on account of the retirement from them, through illness, of the ex-Minister of Justice, Sr. Nabias, and from the fact that Sr. Muritiba, ex-Minister of War, had intimated his intention of following Sr. Nebias's example.

The Visconde de Vicente, at the same sitting, announced that he had succeeded, at the request of His Majesty the Emperor, in forming a Ministry of enlightened men, said that the country undoubtedly required some important measures and reforms, amongst which he would point out those which referred to the slaves, and to the distribution of justice, and added, "The first reclaims an early but a prudent solution—one which will harmonise with the grave interests involved in the question."

In the Chamber of Deputies, on the 30th, some spirited remarks were made on the insufficiency of the grounds for retirement alleged by the ex Prime Minister.

Sr. Andrade Figueira stated that the programme of the ministry in relation to Slavery showed its vitiated origin, as but a few days ago the Chamber of Deputies had pronounced decidedly by a vote of confidence in favour of the Slave policy of the late Cabinet.

The Visconde de Vicente said that, in regard to the Slave question, he thought it the best course not to enter into developments until the next session, by which time the shape to give it could be better settled; always, however, in subordination to the great interests of the country.

Sr. José de Alencar said that he foretold in May last that the ministry of July 16th, although it had resisted successfully up to then, would have to succumb to the pressure of the Crown in regard to the Slave question. That ministry had fallen without honour, while the programme of the new ministry was vague and unsatisfactory. As regarded Slavery, it was frankly emancipationist, and therefore he must oppose it as he would oppose every idea of direct emancipation. He considered that the vote taken in the Chamber a fortnight before, pledged the deputies against the policy of the Cabinet in regard to Slavery.

Baron das Trez Barras, Minister of Justice, said, as respected the charge that the present ministry was organized merely to satisfy the will of the Crown in regard to Slavery, it must be remembered that the Government had pronounced in favour of provisional emancipatory measures in 1867 and 1868. The idea, therefore, was not merely that of the Crown, it was likewise that of the ministers who manifested it, and, to say all the truth, of the country also. In relation to that question, the present ministry was not in discord with the preceding one, and ever since emancipation was ventilated in the parliament the conservative party had never pronounced against it. The late ministry had promised to treat of it in the next session, and that was what the present one was intending to do.

Sr. Pereira da Silva said, only in the entrance of the Slave question into the ministerial programme was there any novelty. But the Minister of Justice had implicitly declared that its views were only the continuation of those of the Cabinet of July 19th, and, such being the case, the Chamber had nothing to do but to forget the programme, and to support the new Cabinet as long as it conformed generally with those views.

Señor Teixeira, Jun., Minister of Agri-



culture, said that he was chairman of the special committee on Slavery appointed by the Chamber to treat with urgency of the question, called to the council of the Crown. Had the majority of the Chamber not been convinced of the need of urgency it would not have granted a special committee, and therefore there was no anomaly in the representative of the idea being called to the cabinet. He then stated the reasons for his motion to prefer the committee bill to the government one for the usufruct slaves, and he explained that the vote of preference then taken had not in view to pronounce on the question of slavery, but only to promote a manifestation of confidence in the ministry, which wished more time for its study. The Chamber was not proslavery at any time, and all it sought was a prudent direction of the serious question of emancipation. Such, also, had been the views expressed by the late ministry, and there was no reason to assert any contradiction in the views of the present.

Señor Araujo Lima said that the abolition of slavery was the programme of no one party, but that of the whole nation, and he would frankly say that if maintenance of slavery had been inscribed on the banner of the conservative party he would at once have left its ranks.

On the 1st of October, at 1 p.m., His Majesty the Emperor closed the session with the following speech :

"August and most worthy Representatives of the nation,—Throughout the present session the public peace remained unaltered in the whole extent of the Empire, and our relations with foreign powers have maintained their usual condition of good understanding and friendship.

"The Allied Powers and the Provisional Government of the Republic of Paraguay have celebrated the preliminary treaty of peace of the 20th of June last.

"I thank you for the supplies with which you have enabled the government to attend to the public service, and for the zeal with which you devoted yourselves to the important measures intended for the progress of the Empire. I trust that your patriotic efforts will complete those which the nation most vehemently reclaims, and which, while tranquillising all vested interests, will satisfy our vital needs of social order.

"August and worthy Representatives of the nation,—When again in your provinces I am sure you will continue your praiseworthy endeavours to promote union among all Brazilians, and to support ideas contributing to the prosperity of our country.

"The session is closed."

(From *Le Francais*.)

## THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

MR. ABILIO CÉSAR BORGES, a highly respectable and well-known Brazilian, an esteemed author, a fervent Christian, and the founder of an important public educational establishment at Bahia, has favoured me with the accompanying letter, which I think it may be useful to publish. It will gladden, as well as console and enliven, the hopes of those whom the tumults of war fail to divert from their love of humanity and the peaceful advancement of justice.

AUGUSTIN COCHIN.

Paris, 20th July, 1870.

"Sir,—In an edition of the *Francais* you were pleased to express a hope that Slavery would shortly be abolished in the Spanish colonies, adding that Brazil would then be the last Christian land soiled with that sad scourge.

"Sincerely devoted to the cause of emancipation, of which you are one of the most zealous advocates, I am anxious, for the honour of my beloved country, to inform you, by writing, of the actual state of the question in Brazil.

"The abolition of Slavery, sir, is at the present day in Brazil no longer a thesis for discussion or a question for solution.

"The absolute certainty of the advantages which would result from abolition, whether considered in relation to public and private morality, or in connection with anything which tends to the progress of art and industry; in a word, to the elevation of the national mind, is, I affirm, an idea already of mature growth, a conviction completely established in the opinion of the public.

"From the Provincial Assemblies to the philanthropic associations; from the wealthiest proprietors to those of humbler fortune; from the brilliant youth of our public schools, and literary and scientific institutions, to the children of our primary schools; from the society of Freemasons to the members of religious orders; from the Emperor, our leading abolitionist, to the lowliest citizen—all vie with one another in expressing their disapprobation at the continuance of the detestable institution of Slavery.

"A Brazilian lady, whom we both equally respect, the Countess de Barral and de Pedra Branca, distinguished alike for her social position as for her fortune, and still more so for her talents and her many virtues, was the first who, some years ago, animated by a generous spirit, decreed that all the children born of her slaves from that date should be free, and her noble example has already been followed by a large number of the slave-owners.

"Sums of money or special taxes applicable to the gradual liberation of the slaves, are voted by the Provincial Assemblies.



"In the capital of the empire, as well as in all the principal towns of the provinces, associations for the same purpose are being everywhere organised.

"It has already become a customary ceremony at public festivals, as well as at family reunions, to blend with the festivities of the masters the happiness resulting from the liberty granted to the slaves.

"In the event of death it is very usual to find a provisional clause in the will of the deceased, directing the enfranchisement of a portion or the whole of his slaves.

"During the dreadful war we so perseveringly and gloriously carried on against Paraguay, one of the most touching means whereby many Brazilians displayed their patriotism, was in liberating their slaves and offering them to the Government for the service of their country.

"And after the war, so gloriously terminated for our arms, granting liberty to their slaves was one of the most frequent means adopted by owners to testify their joy.

"A wealthy slave-owner on this occasion was pleased to notify that all the children henceforward born of his seventy slaves should be declared free.

"Several projects for the abolition of Slavery have been submitted to the National Assembly, which has been sitting since May last, and nearly all of these contain a stipulation enacting the liberty of all slave-born children from the present date.

"Lastly, an extensive financial association with a capital of 24,000 contos of reis (about 60,000,000 of francs) has just been founded at Rio de Janeiro, proposing the enfranchisement of all slaves in the course of thirty-two years, an indemnity to be paid to the masters, the freed slaves entering into an engagement to continue their services for a specified term in order to indemnify the society.

"The press of the country, particularly, without distinction of party, whether political or literary, is unanimous in preaching the doctrine of abolition.

"You must understand, sir, that all these efforts and praiseworthy examples may tend to diminish the evil, but they never can prove sufficient to eradicate it wholly, unless the liberty to be accorded to all new-born children be decreed by law, and become an accomplished fact, in the empire of Brazil.

"It is for the Government to take the initiative in this measure; but the Government clan is silent upon the question, dreading, evidently, through an exaggerated prudence, to precipitate its solution.

"The President of the Council has merely notified to the Chamber of Deputies that complete freedom of action would be allowed the nation in the initiation it had taken.

"Herein lies the most serious, or, to speak my own conviction, the sole obstacle to the fulfilment of the great, the Christian, and civilising reform, which has already received the approval of public opinion; for without the support or the direction of Government, the initiative taken

by the nation in the matter could avail but little with the ordinary means at its disposal.

"There is, moreover, in Brazil, a society composed chiefly of large slave-owners, who, while they profess to be sincere partisans of emancipation, counsel deferring the question to some future time, on the plea that they can foresee the most terrible consequences likely to result from it.

"It is hard to believe that they speak from their own convictions, or, at least, in conformity with their true interests. By further delay we should only be prolonging the evil.

"Neither would I, sir, advocate instant and sudden emancipation, entailing the ruin alike of proprietors and of property. No! I would do so only on condition that the masters could be indemnified. In that case, I would say, Yes, a thousand times, yes! Emancipation at once and at all costs!

"But as I believe that neither the means nor the courage are immediately available for carrying into effect this heroic and decisive measure, I should be glad, under any circumstances, if the National Assembly would commence by decreeing at once the liberty of the new-born children of slaves from the present date, and by seconding the patriotic and generous efforts of the Provincial Assemblies, it would proceed to vote (since the enormous expenses incidental to the late war have ceased), a gross annual sum of at least 400 contos of reis (nearly 1,000,000 of francs) for redeeming the liberty of the slave population.

"By such a step, I feel persuaded that in the course of some ten, fifteen, or twenty years at most, Brazil would witness, almost without being conscious of it, the eradication of this foul blot, which disgraces it in the eyes of the Christian world, and of its own people, as you have so forcibly demonstrated in your work on the 'Abolition of Slavery.'

"In Brazil, as elsewhere, such is the power possessed by the State and by the Government, that no reforms, however great, however national in their character, can be peacefully accomplished without their approval.

"And it happens unfortunately that, although composed (I am happy to acknowledge and declare it) of eminent men, distinguished for their talents, their long experience in public matters, and, above all, for their unflinching patriotism, the present Government of my country seems to be persuaded, notwithstanding the decided and well-known opinion of our Emperor and of the Count d'Eu, that any legislative measures on the question of emancipation would at the present moment be inopportune; and I very much fear that none of the schemes I have referred to above will be voted this year unless the Government afford them its assent.

"It is for these reasons, sir, I claim your support, as well as that of the distinguished author, M. Laboulaye, and of all those generous and kind souls who have at heart the ransom of that poor race which still groans under the weight of servitude, as also the moral and intellectual improvement of those nations to

whom these poor degraded beings are still subservient, who, as I said at the inauguration of the Liberation Society founded at Bahia, on the 7th September, 1869, indirectly, but incessantly, disseminate vice in the bosoms of families.

"In conclusion, allow me to add that, in my opinion, should emancipation take place *en masse*, or unexpectedly, but with due compensation to the proprietors, not only would agriculture remain uninjured, but, on the contrary, it would become more and more productive.

"All the slaves, with but few exceptions, who are at present engaged in the cultivation of the land, would not only continue in the same occupation, but do a greater and more profitable amount of work, too happy to have gained their liberty, and to be in the receipt of wages.

"This view of the question is decidedly borne out by facts.

"It is but an idle fancy to tax the slaves with laziness: that they are so is rather to be attributed to the consciousness of their enslaved condition.

"I am not aware of one instance where a slave has been known to remain idle after acquiring his liberty; and during the war it was clearly proved that the freed slave, when a soldier, was as active and by no means inferior to the white, his former master.

"Accept, sir, the assurance of my highest respect and sincere regard.

"ABILIO CÉSAR BORGES."

## CUBA.

### SLAVERY IN CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

#### SPAIN'S DUTIES, PLEDGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES.

HIS Excellency Señor Moret, the Spanish Colonial Minister—as will be seen in another part of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* of to-day—somewhat bitterly impugns the judgment and fairness of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, as expressed by them in relation to the "Scheme of Emancipation," passed by the Cortes in June last, and to which to the present time full effect has not been given. Our Honorary Secretaries have forwarded to Señor Moret, through our Foreign Office—the medium through which the Spanish Minister's complaints reached us—a rejoinder, which we hold to be as conclusive in argument as it is dignified, frank, and mild in tone; and that, therefore, we have no need, as we have no disposition or purpose, further to discuss those complaints in this article, only just to express our unfeigned gratification that the Spanish Government re-avow, through Señor Moret, "the intention and purpose to put an end to the Slavery Question;" and that, at the

moment of his writing, "*the Government, made strong by public opinion, were preparing the means of presenting complete Emancipation to the next Assembly.*"

The whole civilised world is looking forward with interest for the redemption—the fulfilment—of that pledge.

Spain has entered on a new national epoch. She has, through her Cortes, by 191 to 120 votes, elected to place herself under a Prince of the House of Savoy. The proffered throne has been accepted, and the year 1871 is to be signalised by the public entry of King Amadeus I. into the capital of his adopted country.

It is held to be a happy augury when the first act of a new monarch is one of clemency in opening the prison-doors of political offenders, and that the clemency of the monarch is the more commendable in proportion to the number, and turpitude, and variety of the offenders thus liberated. Such acts have always been extolled, and have rarely been regretted.

We apprehend that King Amadeus I. of Spain is not likely to present an exception to this royal rule; but we appeal to His Majesty and to his Cabinet to impart a fuller and deeper confidence in the Spanish people by proffering an ample amnesty to those who are in open insurrection in the Spanish Antilles, or who, expatriated, are wandering in foreign lands, and by propounding to the Cortes a scheme of complete emancipation for all held by Spain in slavery.

If the Spanish "Government, made strong by public opinion to prepare the means of presenting complete emancipation to the next Assembly," were thus to give effect to their avowed purpose, co-ordinately with the coronation of their new King and Queen—would thus "let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke"—then should "light break forth as the morning, and health spring forth speedily," and the liberated slave, and the good of all lands amongst their contemporaries, and an approving posterity, with the blessing of Providence, encircle their names with honour, and enrol them amongst the benefactors of mankind.

### THE INSURRECTION IN CUBA.

INTELLIGENCE of the most conflicting character continues to reach us; but a fair consideration leads us to the conclusion that there is much truth in the following brief sentence extracted from a recent City Article in the *Times*: "Letters from Cuba state that the course of the insurrection was progressing favourably," and this conclusion is in a sense confirmed by the

intelligence from Cuba, that, "the court-martial in session at Havana has condemned to death all the leaders of the rebellion, the members of the various Cuban Juntas, and all other persons who have been instrumental in the rebellion, but who are now absent from Cuba. The estates of all such will be confiscated."

Spain, too, still continues to pour new troops into that land of beauty, fertility, and fatality—of tyranny and suffering—steamers having within a comparatively short time landed 4,500 fresh troops at Havana. Meanwhile we hear that on the 27th September, the Emancipation Scheme of June was published at Havana; that no one has been officially announced to succeed General Caballero de Rodas as Captain-General; that the latter sailed on the 15th December for Spain; and that General Valmasedo has assumed the temporary command of the Colony.

The forces of nature seem, too, to have been let loose on that unhappy island, for a terrible hurricane prevailed throughout the same on the 14th October, especially at Matanzas and Cardenas. At Matanzas a tidal wave swept away, on its recession, everything from the railroad depôt, which, with trains, passengers, and houses, all disappeared. 2,000 persons are said to have been lost: while the damage to property was enormous. At Cardenas the lower part of the city was laid waste.

The fighting, which preceded and succeeded this temporary disturbance of nature, seems to have been, now to the advantage of the royalists, and now to the advantage of the patriots. Surely it is more than time that this should cease.

## ATROCIOUS ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE MARSHAL PRIM.

### GREAT EXCITEMENT IN SPAIN.

SINCE the foregoing was in type, the startling intelligence has been received that on Tuesday evening, December 28, some would-be assassins atrociously fired at, and seriously wounded, Marshal Prim, as he was proceeding from the Cortes to the Ministry of War. We deeply regret to learn that he is since deceased.

Admiral Topete is appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Minister of War, *ad interim*. Señor Ayala has been appointed Minister for the Colonies; the President of the Cortes, Señor Rivero, has resigned, and Señor Sagasta is his successor, *ad interim*.

A motion of Señor Robledo's, in favour of dissolving the Cortes on the 30th December, was, after a fierce debate again and again adjourned, carried, early in

the morning of the 24th, by 137 against 14. Previously to the taking of the vote, the Montpensierists, Carlists, and Republicans left the Chamber.

The country is fearfully agitated. Six Republican battalions of the National Militia of Madrid have refused to be present at the review to celebrate the inauguration of the King; their officers have been dismissed; and they have been disarmed.

In the midst of these conflicts, Señor Moret, in his new character of Minister of Finance, has to inherit a state of things shown by the fact, that with an income of sixteen millions a year, Spain has spent twenty-five millions. He hopes to effect much by "economies," an income-tax, &c. The minister does not say how large a part of this deficiency has been incurred by supporting Slavery in Cuba.

We read the following extract from the telegrams with interest:—

"It is understood that the Ministry will shortly submit important measures to the Cortes, and bring forward a programme calculated to conciliate all the fractions of the Liberal party."

We trust that, prominent amongst these important measures, will be the complete and immediate abolition of Slavery in Cuba, the disgrace of Spanish freedom, the grave of Spanish reputations, and the cancer of the Spanish body politic.

## FROM THE MADRID LA DISCUSION.

THE Law of Abolition presented by Minister Moret as so urgent, and voted by the Cortes as a matter of instant necessity three months ago, has only very recently appeared in the Gazette.

Respecting Porto Rico there is no doubt of what we say. If we are not wrongly informed, the mere fact of announcing there a law of Abolition five months ago produced an excitement so great between the negroes and their owners, that the one immediately commenced petty revolts and resistances, and the others used so much cruelty and harshness that the Captain-General Sanz had to issue a secret order to stop the progress of this ill-treatment, which always has occurred in every colony where the heroic but infallible remedy of immediate and simultaneous abolition was not resorted to.

But they say they are really executing the law in Cuba, for General Caballero de Rodas has reported that he has placed in liberty 3,000 "emancipados." Señor Moret, by accord with those celebrated slave proprietors, had resolved—



1. To give liberty to 6,650 emancipados, and 22,671 negroes over 60 years of age.

2. To emancipate 26,770 children under 3 years of age.

3. To liberate all negroes who had served the Spanish arms in the campaign against the insurrection.

But of all these there are only a few over 3,000 emancipados liberated three months after the votation and promulgation of a law declared urgent, so urgent that it was put forth as the preparation for the definitive Abolition which was to be presented in the next legislature in November.

But we must not stop here. The law prohibits the separation of the slave families. But what happens? Read the following advertisements taken from a recent number of the *Diario de la Marina* of Havana:—

"For want of money, will be sold cheaply, two healthy and robust negro boys, suitable to amuse children and do some hard labour. Address, Malojallo."

"To be sold. A negress of 6 years, good and serviceable. Knows how to sew, mind children, and serve table. Apply, Calle Compostela 128."

"To be sold. A negress 26 years of age, alone, or with her child of 3 years. Excellent cook, nurse, sewer, and embroider. Calle Bernaza 28."

If this happens where it can be seen—if the slave-owners advertise thus on the fourth page of a newspaper which censures the authorities, and which everybody reads, and which has an immense circulation in Cuba—what may we not say is passing in the silence of the plantations, and how many misdeeds committed since the passing of Señor Moret's famous law of preparation? Speaking of this law, we ask the defenders of what is going on in Cuba to tell us frankly *where, when, and in what manner*, it has been promulgated in the great Antilles? *No; it has never yet been promulgated there, nor even published!* And what are the consequences of this omission? Just these—that the negroes being ignorant of the fact that the period for breaking of their chains has commenced, and the *emancipados* not knowing that the hour of their liberty has legally arrived, receive their freedom with surprise, and look upon it as an act of grace and immense favour from their masters. The latter, however, are not ignorant, for they read the Madrid newspapers. They hastened to make the poor negro, on emerging from his servitude, enter into a special contract with them. We have received a printed copy of this contract from Cuba. The following are some of the clauses which the poor emancipado, in his complete ignorance, looks upon as an advantage to him:—

"Be it known by this present document that I (*the master*) inhabitant of \_\_\_\_\_ Estate, called \_\_\_\_\_ on the one part, and I (*the negro*) on the other part, native of \_\_\_\_\_ of full age, inhabitant of \_\_\_\_\_, and in legal aptitude to the contract, by virtue of the manumission which I have obtained from the Government, have agreed the following:—

"1. I (*the negro*) promise to labour under the order of \_\_\_\_\_, or of his subordinates, in the plantation of \_\_\_\_\_, or in any other of his estates, or in the estates of any other person to whom he may transfer this contract, for which transfer I hereby give my consent of my free and spontaneous will.

"2. This contract is to last eight (8) years, beginning from the day of the date hereof.

"3. I will work, as I have manifested, in all the estates of \_\_\_\_\_, or in those of the person to whom he may transfer this contract, in the order and form customary in this country, whether in the field, or in the populations, or in private houses in domestic service, or in any commercial or industrial establishments, or on the coffee plantations, or amongst the horses and cattle, or in the dwelling houses or the country houses, or in the farms—in short, in any class of urban or rural labour to which I might have been dedicated by he who was my patrono, subjecting myself from this moment, both as regards hours of labour and of rest and of feasts to be observed, to the order and customs established in the locality to which I may be designated.

"4. Under no conception will I, during the eight years of this compromise, deny my services to \_\_\_\_\_, or to the person to whom he may pass this contract, nor evade myself from his power, nor even try to do so for any cause whatever, except in case of redemption, and subject to an indemnification to the possessor of this contract, equal to the years or months wanting to complete the eight years of my compromise.

"5. As a guarantee that I will comply well and faithfully with the foregoing stipulations, I consent that my certificate of manumission which I have obtained from the Government, shall remain in the hands of \_\_\_\_\_, or of the person to whom he may transfer this contract, as a pledge, until I have completed the eight years of my compromise, subjecting myself in this particular to the orders and regulations dictated respecting those of my class."

Comment on the above we will make in a few days. Meantime we desire Señor Moret to ask Havana by telegraph "How many of the 3,000 of whom he speaks as being freed of the emancipados have escaped this infamous contract?"

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## THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN CUBA.

*From the Falmouth (Jamaica) Post.*

THE editor of a new publication, called the *Queen's Newsmen*, has given a strange

account of the present state of affairs in the island of Cuba, which he has lately visited. He says, "there is no patriotic insurrection at all in Cuba, but that there is a sort of highway robbery going on, where on country roads people are attacked for money or what valuables they have about them; that estates are sometimes surprised by a few armed men who go there to carry off the cattle, and here and there burn an estate; that Cuba is now just like what Jamaica would be if a dozen convicts like Eastman were let loose on the country to commit depredations when they had a chance; and, just as it was difficult for Eastman to be captured by the Jamaica police, so is it difficult for the Cuban brigands to be captured by Spanish troops." He adds, "that the so-called Cuban rebels are only so many Eastmans let loose, never showing themselves in a fight if they can help it;" and he concludes with the assurance to the readers of the *Newsman* "that the cities he visited in Cuba were as quiet and peaceable as any town in Jamaica, that not a thought of insurrection was in the mind of anybody, and that nobody visiting these cities would ever have dreamt of an insurrection being in the country." We are inclined to think that the writer of the above statements was deceived by appearance or by the false representations of that portion of the Spanish citizens with whom he associated, and by whom he was hospitably entertained. If, indeed, there has been no insurrection; if there has been nothing more than "a sort of highway robbery going on;" and if Cuba is truly likened as what "Jamaica would be if a dozen convicts like Eastman were let loose on the country," then the reports forwarded by the Captain-General of the island to the Provisional Government in Spain must be regarded as mischievously false, and intended to create unnecessary alarm in the minds of the members of that Government, as well as in those of the members of the Cortes in the city of Madrid. If the "so-called Cuban Rebels are only so many Eastmans let loose," what necessity was there for the organisation in America of a Cuban Patriotic Junta, consisting of wealthy men who have expended thousands of pounds during two years in fitting out expeditions and sending arms, ammunition, and war supplies of every description to the Eastmans of their native land? What necessity was there for the emigration to Jamaica of some of the most respectable families who own extensive property in the Havana, St. Jago, Cienfuegos, Manzanilla, and the provinces of Principe and La Vuelta de Abaja? Was the Cuban Junta formed in this island for no other purpose than that of

aiding a dozen or two brigands who could not be subdued and captured by 30,000 Spanish soldiers under the command of experienced and able Generals like Rodas, Valmaseda, and Ampudia? Whence the necessity for the embodiment of thousands of European volunteers, and the placing of a cordon of war steamers around the coasts of Cuba, "if there was not a thought of insurrection in the mind of anybody, and if anybody had ever dreamt of an insurrection being in the country?" The latest intelligence received from Spain is to the effect that additional troops, amounting to 3,000, were being despatched to assist in the suppression not of petty highway robberies, but of active and vigorous revolution, the leaders of which entertain the reasonable hope that the liberation of Cuba from oppression and tyranny will soon be an accomplished fact. There is also intelligence from St. Jago that three battles have been fought within the last four or five weeks; that the fighting on both sides was desperate, lasting between four or five hours, and attended with great loss of life; and yet we are told "that there is no patriotic insurrection," and no disturbance of the public peace that can be considered of importance.—*Abridged.*

#### GENERAL GRANT ON THE CUBAN INSURRECTION AND SPAIN.

THE following is abridged from that portion of the Presidential Message which refers to outrages committed on American citizens in the earlier period of the Cuban Insurrection:—

"It is not understood that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the close of the last Session of Congress. In an early stage of the contest the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of arbitrary arrests, of close confinement, and of military trial and execution of persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents, and of summary embargo of their properties, and sequestration of their revenues by executive warrant. In the negotiations opened on this subject at Madrid, and still pending there, the United States only claimed that, for the future, the rights secured to their citizens by treaty should be respected in Cuba, and that, as to the past, a joint tribunal should be established in the United States, with full jurisdiction over all such claims. Before such an impartial tribunal each claimant would be required to prove his case. Recent examples show that the mode which the United States have proposed to Spain for adjusting the pending claims is just and feasible, and that it may be agreed to by

either nation without dishonour. It is to be hoped that this moderate demand may be acceded to by Spain without further delay. Should the pending negotiations, unfortunately and unexpectedly, be without result, it will then become my duty to communicate that fact to Congress, and invite its action on the subject."

#### THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON THIS QUESTION.

MADRID, Dec. 17.—In to-day's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, in reply to a question of Señor Bugalla, Señor Sagosta said:—"The words of President Grant relative to Cuba in the Presidential Message had no importance, because Spain would accept a mixed Commission for the settlement of the American claims arising from the Cuban insurrection."

#### LETTER BY PROF. PETROVICH.

REPEATED attempts have recently been made by pro-Slavery partisans to induce the public to believe that the insurrection in Cuba is confined to persons of no consideration, whether as to numbers or reputation. The following is an abridgment of a letter which appeared in the *Scotsman*, of June 21. Its value will atone for its age: it is well worthy of reproduction.—  
ED. A.-S. R.

"St. Thomas', West Indies, May 19, 1870.

"SIR,—It has been my lot during a year and seven months to pursue professional studies in the Spanish island of Cuba—whence I have just arrived here. My advantages for obtaining information on the existing troubled affairs in the Spanish West India colonies have been constant and peculiar.

"Ever since 1856 there has been springing up in the hearts of the landed proprietors of Cuba, though of Spanish descent, an impatience of the military (and purely military) rule of Spain.

"The white inhabitants of Cuba and Porto Rico have never been entrusted with any public functions in either island. The employés of Government, from the highest to the lowest, have always been Spaniards coming or sent from Spain to push their fortunes; and those sent or coming from Spain have not even been very good exemplifications of the Spanish nation.

"The white Cubans—i.e. the settlers and permanent inhabitants—are in general children or grandchildren of Spaniards who long ago acquired property in the island; and it is to them, in fact, that Cuba in most part belongs. Most of the wealthy and independent have been at schools and colleges in America, France, England, or Germany, and are fitted by their acquirements to mingle in general

society, and judge of public affairs, especially on questions affecting their own position and property. I mention this with emphasis, because, like many other persons in Germany, Russia, and, I suppose, also in England, I believed, before coming to Cuba, that the 'Creole insurgents' were composed of a mob of brown and black malcontents, and whom the Spanish and Havana newspapers have for a year been calling 'banditti,' 'robbers,' and other opprobrious names.

"I presume it is known in England and America that the 'Spanish' party in Cuba is composed of 'volunteers' with excellent arms in their hands, who occupy the towns where their respective trades call upon them to reside. Now also of late there have been established throughout Cuba many 'cercles' or associations. By the pressure put upon them by these 'cercles' or clubs, the 'Spanish' troops, aided by the 'volunteers,' are now, and have for some time been, carrying on a war of simple extermination of the white Cuban population.

"When the 'insurgents' published the programme of liberty to the slave, and freed their negroes, the 'volunteers' almost at once doubled the number of their members; and what in February, 1869, amounted to a force of perhaps 25,000 men, now has risen to an army of probably 58,000 or 62,000 well-armed and well-drilled men (not well-disciplined, however, for they are insubordinate to their officers) who really rule Cuba from one end to the other, wherever the insurgent forces are not congregated. Of course, they hold all the seaports and seacoast, because the Spanish ships of war cruise round and round the island, and co-operate in the out-ports with the 'volunteers.' It was by some leaders of the 'volunteers' that General Dulce was expelled from Cuba; and ever since then that body of men, guided by the 'cercles' or 'casinos Espanol,' have virtually ruled Cuba.

"These new leaders of all public affairs in the island cling, of course, to the retaining of slavery as it is, and to retain slavery you must have slaves; therefore they are ready for any plan which will enable them again to import slaves from Africa or anywhere else.

"I wish first to draw attention to the fact that ever since the 'Spanish volunteers' asserted their power and independence by expelling the Governor, General Dulce, appointed by the revolutionary Government in Madrid, the rule and 'say' of Spain in Cuba has been diminished. The Madrid Government has lost its prestige and its old authority.

"The vast number of lives which have been lost in Cuba, from the beginning of the troubles until now, cause us to wonder if the neighbouring States are fully informed of all that has occurred. I was informed by a French subject, long resident in Cuba, that, by fevers and other maladies, by fightings and by wounds, by military and civil executions, and by starvation and misery in remote parts, more than 70,000 (seventy thousand) individuals have died! On conversing regarding this alarming



assertion with a Spanish naval officer, he expressed no surprise, and appeared to suppose that the Frenchman was perhaps in the right. He said:—

“What we Spanish officers most regret is the shooting of prisoners and suspected country peasants by the “volunteers” without our sanction or approval. This is, to us regulars, very loathsome; but what can we do? We have given these ruffians arms, and they will now never give them back to us. They are the masters of the situation, and they number more than 60,000 (sixty thousand) well-armed Spaniards, who are exasperated against the Cubans, and who avowedly wish to exterminate them altogether.”

“I was astounded at first at this coolness; but, in truth, this Cuban war has been conducted, on both sides, with so much cruelty that the feelings of all seem blunted, and all seem deaf to the call of humanity—even spectators become callous.”

[After reciting a number of dreadful atrocities, the writer continues: “I am at a loss to comprehend why the Great Powers permit a small State like Spain to disgrace herself before the world by these acts.”]

“I subjoin a clever and true extract from the *Journal of Commerce*, showing that Spain is fighting to perpetuate slavery in Cuba:—

“In one of our letters from Havana, the writer brings into bold relief the fact that Spain has staked herself upon the preservation of slavery in Cuba. He states that all the parties in the island who are now contributing most liberally for the support of the Spanish army operating there, are slave-dealers or slave-owners.

“We may probably never know what pledges Spain has given to the slave-owners of Cuba; but it may naturally be inferred that some word has been passed between the Government at Madrid and the Cuban officials, which warrants the latter in appealing most powerfully to the slave-holding interest on the island.”

“I pray you, sir, to excuse my imperfect English, which I have not been accustomed to write for many years.—I am, &c.

“NICHOLAS PETROVICH,

“Hist. Nat. Professor.”

THE NEW AMERICAN MINISTER TO ST. JAMES'S.—It is said that General Schenck, the new American Minister to London, will start for England on the 18th January.

MR. OTWAY, M.P., has resigned his Under-Secretaryship at the Foreign Office.

ALEXANDER DUMAS, of powerful intellect, great versatility, wild fancy, and indomitable industry, was of Negro extraction.

THERE have been serious outbreaks in Martinique, but they were resolutely quelled.

## THE POLYNESIAN SLAVE-TRADE.

### THE LABOUR QUESTION IN FIJI.

THE *Melbourne Argus* recently contained a series of cleverly-written letters on the Fiji Islands. The writer enlarges on the facts that “from 1s. 3d. to 4s. 11d. per lb. has been obtained in the home markets for Fiji-grown Sea Island cotton,” that the white population of the Fijis was, in September, 1870, nearly 3,000; and that cotton to the amount of £45,000 was exported last year.

It is said that capital is needed, that labour must be secured, and, for the sake of everybody, settled government is most needed. Great Britain and the United States in turn have both been appealed to for protection—the former formally, again and again, but so far without result.

The Wesleyan Methodists have done, and are doing, a great work in the Fijis, but already the high price of labour is seriously telling on their most hopeful converts, many of whom are drawn away from ordinary pursuits to more profitable occupation on distant cotton plantations.

The United States Government are represented by a vigorous consul at Ovalau, and we by a gentleman of much intelligence, vigour, and impartiality, E. B. March, Esq., who happily and deservedly enjoys the confidence of the English as a body.

We wish to speak with measured caution and absolute fairness; but with adventurous Britons and adventurous Americans of the planter genus, located on islands far apart, with the power of life and death over their labourers in their own hands; without the restraints of responsible government, with a demand for cotton from 1s. 3d. to 4s. 11d. per lb., in the very nature of things, as all analogy has shown, virtual Slavery at least must exist, and unless some suitable power shall interpose, the iniquity will become framed by a law.

We find in the *Argus* of September 10th the characteristic fact that a Mr. Norman, formerly of Carlton, who some nine months before left Levuka with a boatload of plantation hands from Tanna for his plantation in Vanua Levu, had been killed and eaten by the Tanna men, who attempted to make for their own country. This, however, they failed to accomplish, for the boat was ultimately cast on an island, on which some of the survivors were found.

We have indubitable evidence that force or fraud, or both, are very frequently used for inducing natives of Tanna, and other Polynesians, to leave their island homes, who are foully sold into Slavery.

It is within the memory of living men that the great cotton culture of the Southern States of America became developed, and with it, Negro Slavery struck deep its accursed roots and extended its poisonous branches, until all sacred things drooped and all but died beneath its withering shade.

We give below some facts which tell their own sad tale, and to which we call the attention of all whom they may concern. While men like Captain Hayes and Hugo Levinger are at large, and the law and its officials prove insufficient for their conviction and detention, there is little to hope for on behalf of their "emigrants"; and while men, lifting their heads high in our colonies and elsewhere, countenance or connive at their proceedings, they cannot escape the social stigma or the providential results of their complicity:—

(From *The Melbourne Argus*, Oct. 10.)

#### CAPTAIN HAYES AND HUGO LEVINGER.

A DEVASTATING native war was being carried on in the neighbouring group of Samoa. The notorious Captain Hayes, whose exploits in the Pacific are well known, had fallen into the hands of a Samoan chief, who captured his schooner (the *Atlantic*), and took him and his crew prisoners. His Samoan Majesty delivered the captives up to the British Consul at Apia, and charged the captain and crew with kidnapping men for slaves, clear proofs of which are said to be furnished. The prisoners await the arrival of an English man-of-war, when the case will be inquired into. An act of piracy had been committed at Tanna, the crew of the schooner *Ringdove*, of Auckland, having seized another schooner, and sailed away with it to some unknown port.

A week's later news, telegraphed from Sydney on the 7th inst., states that the war in Samoa has ceased, and that Captain Hayes had effected his escape.

Hugo Levinger, who was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for being implicated in the death of certain South Sea Islanders, who had been taken on board a vessel of which he was supercargo, has been liberated on bail. The application, which was made on the strength of the order of the Privy Council, obtained on appeal, directing a new trial on the ground that the prisoner's challenge of an alien juror had been disallowed, was at first refused, but subsequently the Attorney-General, with the concurrence of the judge who tried the case—Mr. Justice Barry—consented to his release. Levinger has given security for his appearance at the Criminal Sessions on the 15th October, to answer the charge on which he was before indicted. It is more than probable, however, that the difficulty of getting together the witnesses, most of whom are now out of the colony, will be an obstruction to any further proceedings.

#### HORRORS OF THE POLYNESIAN SLAVE-TRADE.

WE have been favoured with perusing a deeply interesting letter from a South-Sea Missionary—a gentleman of high character, connected with one of our great missionary organisations. From that letter we copy, by permission, the following affecting extract:—

"RAIATEA, Nov. 16th, 1869.—On our way to Rurutu, we fell in with a schooner from Tahiti, she had on board 83 natives, 50 Atius, 13 Rimataras, and 20 Rurutus, which were being returned from the Tahitian plantations, their time of agreement having expired. On board this vessel there were two natives who had been on the *Marama*, (the unfortunate vessel belonging to a shipping house at Tahiti,) and were on board at the time the natives murdered the captain. The *Marama* had been unfortunate at the different islands where she had called, and as they did not succeed in obtaining natives, she was returning to Tahiti. On their way back they fell in with a vessel called the *Annie*, of Melbourne, which had on board 159 Islanders. On board this schooner they had been for some days badly off for water and provisions, and the poor natives had suffered very much during the calm weather they had experienced at different times on their voyage.

"The captain in charge of the *Marama*, finding the supercargo of the *Annie* willing to part with his cargo, he engaged to take them. They were accordingly transhipped to the *Marama*, where there were both water and provisions; the supercargo said he could get any number of natives to go with him, but, as his vessel could only find accommodation for 150 or so, he was obliged to be content with what he had. An engagement was then made between the captain and this man to go together, and try to get a full cargo for the *Marama*. They then parted with the *Annie*, and sailed for the King's Mill group, Blithe, Peru, and Drummond's Islands. Up to this time those obtained out of the *Annie* had been kept below. For some reason, however, all the natives were allowed on deck, and, finding themselves taken out to sea, they all joined for their escape on shore; and, seizing whatever they could lay their hands on—hatchets, knives, iron-bolts, anything that came to their hand—they commenced an attack upon the white men. The mate, who was putting up a bulk forward at the time, caught sight of a savage with something in his hand, and on looking up again, in an instant the supercargo was down bleeding on the deck. He then called out to the captain, to look out and run below, himself jumping down the fore-hatch. Having broken through the bulk-head aft, he reached the cabin, and, snatching up a gun, he hastened on deck, where he found the captain and five others murdered. Taking aim at the fellow he had seen commence the affray, he shot him dead, and escaped below as fast as he could. By

this time the watch below were awake, and they commenced preparing to defend themselves by blocking up the companion, to prevent the natives coming down upon them. They then arranged for the blowing the vessel's deck up, hoping by that means to clear the deck of the savages. And when they had succeeded in placing a barrel of gunpowder underneath the deck, they set the train which was to fire the powder, and descended to the very bottom of the ship. A few minutes sufficed to wait for the explosion. When they made a rush through the smoke to the deck, they found the natives nearly all overboard, swimming from the ship. They now despatched the few who were still on the fore-castle-deck, and set to work for dear life to defend themselves from the savages, who now again began to ascend the sides of the ship in swarms, to retake the vessel. One man then ran to the helm, and after a hard struggle, the ship gathered way on her, and gradually got clear off from the natives, who began to disperse, and swim for the shore, which was about six miles distant. The dead bodies were then thrown overboard, and the vessel was taken to Tahiti almost a wreck from the explosion."

### THE COOLIE TRADE.

THE *Honolulu Advertiser* gives an account of the sufferings of 608 coolies in course of transportation from Macao to Callao, *via* Honolulu. For three weeks after leaving Macao the coolies were not permitted to go on deck. They were stowed between decks in four rows, two amidships and one in each wing, a space 16 inches wide being allotted to each individual. After three weeks' imprisonment, the coolies were allowed to go on deck in gangs of 50, for one hour, for the purpose of breathing fresh air and taking exercise. Sentries, armed to the teeth, were stationed on the deck, and the coolies were compelled to move around, in a lively step, by means of the cat-o'-nine-tails. After getting out into the Pacific, the provisions fell short, and one pound of boiled rice and one pint of water per diem were given out to each of the coolies. Several revolts occurred during the voyage to Honolulu; 18 coolies jumped overboard, and 25 died from disease. The odour emanating from the hatches of of the vessel, it is stated, caused vomiting and severe sickness. At Honolulu 43 of these unfortunate coolies were landed, 12 of them being at the point of death. They presented the appearance of the prisoners at Andersonville. The excitement among the Chinese and the natives at Honolulu was very great, and fears of a mob were entertained. The sick coolies were placed under humane treatment. About the end of August, another San Salvador ship, the

*Louisa Carnavaro*, measuring 1,050 tons, arrived at Honolulu, with 700 coolies aboard. Her trip from Macao occupied 56 days, and the coolies were in a healthy condition, only two deaths having occurred. They were allowed the utmost freedom of action, going below or remaining on deck at will. The two cases, "if truly stated, show how differently the trade may be conducted."—*The Times*, 28th October.

### ZANZIBAR.

#### DEATH OF THE SULTAN.

THE death of Syud Majid, Sultan of Zanzibar, has already been announced by telegraph. The Bombay papers state that his brother, Syud Burgash, has succeeded him in the sultanate. The late Sultan was the successor of Syud Saeed, Sultan of Muscat, who made Zanzibar a permanent seat of government. In 1844 Syud Saeed intimated his desire to appoint his sons, Syud Majid and Syud Thowaynee, as his successors in his African and Asiatic dominions respectively, and appointed them his deputies. In accordance with this, Syud Thowaynee succeeded to the government of Muscat on his father's death, and in virtue of that he claimed also feudal supremacy over Zanzibar. He prepared to establish his claim by force of arms, but the dispute was submitted to the arbitration of Lord Canning, who decided that Zanzibar should be independent of Muscat, paying, however, an annual subsidy of 40,000 crowns. Syud Majid was a weakly prince, but ever true to the British power; how far his successor will show the latter amiability remains to be seen, especially in carrying out the arrangement to pay an annual subsidy of 40,000 crowns to the ruler of Muscat. Syud Toorkee is an elder brother of the newly-made Sultan; a younger brother, Abdool Azeer, is at present on a sort of roving commission in the Gulf.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE new Indian policy of the United States, so far as tried, has been satisfactory. Of the public lands, nearly 370,000,000 acres were taken up under the Homestead law during the last year, nearly 216,000,000 acres sold for cash, and about 220,000,000 acres located with military warrant, college or Indian scrip, or as land grants for railroads, &c. The policy of homestead and educational grants, and, with proper restrictions, of grants for railroads or other improvements, is warmly approved.



## COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

### RUMOURED FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

THERE is a rumour about that the Colonial Office has an idea of federalising the West India Islands under a single Governor-General, a plan which would, we doubt not, find hearty support in Parliament. No act of Union could make of the island a strong State, but a federal system would greatly simplify and strengthen their administration, which is just now preposterously pompous. What does Turk's Head Island, for instance, with 6,000 people, want with a Government all to itself, a separate Attorney-General, and so on? The Union would lighten taxation, relieve the central power of local influences, and raise altogether the political tone of the islands, which is often at present parochial in the worst sense.—*The Spectator*.

#### JAMAICA.

SIR J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

ON Sunday morning, Oct. 23, Governor Grant arrived in Kingstown Harbour, with Mrs. Grant, Captain Lanyon, A.D.C., Mr. W. Grant, Assistant-Secretary, and four servants.

On the 2nd November, His Excellency received a magnificent ovation at Spanish Town. There were a procession, triumphal arches, music, banners, refreshments, and an address, which especially complimented Sir John on his urbanity, kindness, and impartiality, and making special mention of the improved system of Immigration—the establishment of Central Hospitals—of depôts for sick Immigrants—and the institution of Government Savings Banks in parishes in which none hitherto existed.

The following is a copy of Sir John's reply—

"HONOURABLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,—

"I am greatly flattered by this address, and I am deeply gratified by your cordial welcome, on my return to the seat of Government of this Colony.

"Having now known you for more than four years, first in a time of very great anxiety and depression, and now in a time of comfort and comparative prosperity, I should be blind if I did not recognise in all classes of the people of this island, a people who, in respect to their loyalty and the peacefulness of their natural dispositions, will stand a comparison with the most loyal and peaceable subjects of the British Crown, in whatever quarter of the globe these may be.

"You know that I have an old-fashioned habit of expecting the advancement of the common weal more surely from the intelligent, careful, prudent, and economical management, by the individual, of his own business, than from the best intentioned measures that any Government can devise. But I am gratified to find that you have confidence in my goodwill at least to promote, so far as a Government can properly promote, and so far as means are practically available, any well considered and legitimate scheme for the development of the resources of the island, that prudence and science may dictate. *One such scheme I have at this moment much at heart, which, if successful, may convert some part at least of the arid plain around this town into a fertile garden.*

"I am obliged to you for your recognition of my own endeavours, and the endeavours of the able men associated with me in the Government, for the advancement of Education. As yet it has not been possible for us to do anything effectively in this line, beyond the encouragement of elementary schools which are certainly at present the things of most pressing necessity in the department of Education. *But I hope that the time is not very far distant when something important of a higher order than elementary schools may be effectively accomplished. And for any institution of the class to which I now allude, I know of no place in Jamaica which it would be more conducive to the general good to select as the site than this town of St. Jago de la Vega.*

"The modern capital of the island has an irresistible claim to be the one great centre of the judicial system. But I know of no place which has a better claim to be the centre, or one at least of the chief centres of the Educational system, than this old town, our ancient capital, which has noble buildings for such a purpose ready to our hands.

"Believe me, gentlemen, in all sincerity, and believe me, all friends whom I now see before me, that I feel profoundly the honour done me by this reception, a reception which in its character has been to me no less unexpected than gratifying, and the great kindness of the great expressions conveyed to me by your address.

"1st November, 1870."

### THE COOLIE COMMISSION IN BRITISH GUIANA.

THE Commissioners appointed to inquire into the charges of G. W. Des Vœux, Esq., against certain officials and others in British Guiana, of ill-treatment and neglect of the Coolie population, have finished their arduous work.

The President, George Frere, Esq., F.R.G.S., was ably sustained by his colleagues, Sir George Young, Bart., and Charles Mitchell, Esq. (a son of Henry Mitchell, Emigrant Agent-General of Trinidad).

The Commissioners resolved to perform the active work of examining all the witnesses; but put questions, at the instance of the Planters' counsel, Mr. T. H. Cowie, Advocate-General of Bengal; the counsel for the Aborigines Protection Society, the Coolies, and the Anti-Slavery Society, Mr. E. Jenkins; and the gentlemen who took their places after they left the colony—allowing to those gentlemen considerable latitude.

The Commission opened on the 26th August at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, and on the 21st September the following witnesses had been examined: Mr. Des Vœux, Administrator of St. Lucia, formerly a stipendiary magistrate in British Guiana; Mr. Justice Crosby, Immigration Agent General; Dr. Shier, Medical Inspector of Estates Hospitals; Mr. W. H. Ware, Stipendiary Magistrate; Mr. D. M. Gallagher, Acting Sub-Immigration Agent General; Mr. W. Russell, Attorney for *Leonora* and a large number of other Estates; Mr. M. G. Pequeno, a storekeeper at Boerasirie, on the West Coast; Hulloman, a Hindoo, formerly a driver on *Leonora* Estate; Mr. N. Cox, Inspector-General of the Police Force; Mr. G. H. Oliver, Chairman of the Planters' Committee—formed to get up evidence in refutation of Mr. Des Vœux's statements; Mr. W. N. Lynch, Mr. E. N. Carbery, and Mr. D. Brandon, Barristers-at-Law; the Hon. H. Watson, Administrator-General; Dr. H. Hutson, Medical Attendant of Georgetown Gaol and of six estates; and Mr. J. C. Clarke, formerly Manager of Plantation *Enterprise*, on the East Coast. Both Mr. Cowie and Mr. Jenkins were absent from the Court on the 19th September.

The Commissioners adjourned their sittings in Georgetown on the 21st September, and resumed them on the 17th October, visiting meanwhile on the East and West Coasts the following estates, viz. *Great Diamond*, *Cuming's Lodge*, *Ruimveldt*, *Peter's Hall*, Fellowship District Gaol, *Hague*, *Vryheid's Lust*, and *Bel Air*.

On the 17th October, the Solicitor-General of the colony, N. Atkinson, Esq., appeared in the place of Mr. Cowie, and Mr. Carbery in the place of Mr. Jenkins, (both of whom had left the Colony) when Mr. Des Vœux was re-examined; and at the close, the sitting of the Commission was adjourned until Oct. 20, on which day the following witnesses were examined:—Mr. J. Brummell, Police Magistrate of Georgetown, and Sheriff of Demerara; Mr. E. G. Yewens, Magistrates' Clerk for districts East Coast and East Bank; and five coolies, viz. Jeremiah Simpson, Hector Stout, Peter Duggin, William Manning,

and Martin Ramsay. The Commissioners then adjourned their sittings at Georgetown until further notice.

The Commissioners subsequently visited Essequibo. On 27th Oct. they visited plantations *Hamburg* and *Hoff-van-Holland*, Tiger Island; on the 27th *L'Union* and *Cullen*, and on the 1st November they sat at the Suddie Court House, Essequibo—the counsel present being the Solicitor-General and Mr. Carbery, when the following witnesses were examined:—Mr. H. C. Huggins, Stipendiary Magistrate of the Essequibo North Coast District; Mr. W. Humphreys, Sheriff of the County, and a Stipendiary Justice of the Peace; Mr. John S. Ferrier, a druggist, living at Aurora; and Mr. S. F. Yearwood, part proprietor and manager of the plantation *Windsor Castle*.

The Commissioners left Georgetown on the 9th November, for Berbice, and sat on the 17th in the Public Buildings, New Amsterdam, when they examined Mr. J. D. Fraser, Sheriff; Mr. J. Alves, acting Stipendiary Magistrate, stationed on the Corentyn; Mr. R. J. Kelly, planter; and Mr. N. Winter, a planter representing six plantations.

The Commissioners visited several estates in Berbice; also crossed over to the Dutch settlement, Nickirie; and visited some of the estates there, obtaining, it is said, some valuable hints on the Labour System; and returned to Georgetown on the 22nd November.

The Commissioners resumed their sittings, in the room of the Governor's Private Secretary, Public Buildings, Georgetown, on the 25th November.

During the whole course of the proceedings a good deal of excitement prevailed throughout the Colony—heightened in some measure by the publication of a pamphlet by Sir Francis Hincks, in defence of his conduct while Governor, and by Mr. Des Vœux's reply. Indeed newspaper warfare was very strong and sustained; and towards the close of the Inquiry the Commissioners themselves were the subjects of acrimonious abuse.

Mr. Des Vœux complained that he was unable to obtain from officials, who had been ordered by the Commissioners to supply them, copies of documents necessary to verify various statements in his allegations—respecting which he had been examined; the Commissioners repeatedly expressed their wish and resolve that every facility should be given to him to prove his allegations: indeed that all parties should have access to official documents; and, when requisite, be furnished with copies.

We regret that there was much contradictory evidence—that there was, to use a homely but well-understood English phrase, “a good deal of hard swearing.”

To give a condensation of the evidence is impossible, and to attempt to anticipate the decisions and recommendations of the Commissioners would be impertinent; we rejoice, however, in believing that the Commissioners will be ready with their report before the opening of the next session of Parliament.

Although some important persons—representative in character—do not seem to have volunteered, or been called upon to give evidence, we think that the Commissioners obtained enough to condemn the Coolie system as it has been carried out in relation to British Guiana, from the engagement to the death or return home of the “immigrant” labourer. In many instances, with antecedents entirely unsuited to his new occupation—in some cases badly conveyed on his lengthy voyage—with the original terms of engagement not unfrequently altered to his detriment without his consent—latterly badly or never properly authenticated on arrival—in many instances badly lodged in health, and in some cases worse lodged and insufficiently fed and cared for in sickness; some hospitals being oddly enough furnished with stocks, but not properly supplied with food and personal and bed clothing—with living generally dearer and wages lower than in days gone by—subjected to ordinances which even some of those called upon to administer them confessedly do not understand—practically, legally barred from the recovery of wages, if withheld—not unfrequently taken up and put in prison, at the will of a manager, if found two miles away from his employers, even under circumstances next to impossible to avoid—thousands debarred from marriage, from the paucity of Coolie females, and peculiarly liable, if married, to suffer from the invasion of his conjugal rights—unable from lack of knowledge, or lack of interpreters, or both, to receive or communicate instruction or to make complaints—if evidence to this effect is to be relied on, the Coolie “immigrant” is, in many respects, worse off than the slave.

Hence, now these facts are brought publicly to light, it seems to us that, if we understand the evidence we have read, the whole system must be revolutionised or abandoned.

The former, we think, never could take place under what is termed a representative assembly in colonies like British Guiana; only under Imperial rule could it be possible, and scarcely then. How could it be otherwise where there is no such thing as public opinion, and where

the first idea is to secure the most work at the least cost and liability to be burdened with the worker; and the second is to secure order, not by the culture and elevation of the “immigrant,” but by the weapons of the policemen or the militia.

The Commissioners seem to us to have evinced great ability and tact, full knowledge, untiring diligence and patience, and great impartiality and quiet intrepidity in the prosecution of their difficult work, from which neither could have been spared without loss.

The presence of Mr. Cowie, the Advocate-General of Bengal, for the planters, and of Mr. Jenkins for the Aborigines’ Protection Society, the immigrants and ourselves, both lawyers of great ability, and of their substitutes after they left the colony, materially aided in eliciting the truth in its completeness.

The condition of the immigrants on some estates was declared to be distressing indeed—overwork, illtreatment, and outbreaks, being almost chronic; on others, where the Coolies were considerably treated, there seemed to have been comparative peace and contentment.

We can scarcely speak in terms too strong of the frankness of witnesses, who gave plain testimony, even when that testimony, as it did in some instances, told against themselves.

To perform the work assigned to the emigration officials in the colony was a sheer impossibility—had there been as complete a definition of duty and harmony of action between them and the executive, the magistracy, the medical men, and the police, in relation to the planters, the managers, and the coolies, as marked as were their absence.

Mr. Des Vœux may not have shown the greatest deliberation and caution in framing his allegations, but they have been substantially established notwithstanding; and the inquiry will be found vitally and usefully to affect the labour question in all our colonies. Mr. Des Vœux is to be honoured for his humanity and applauded for his courage.

We look forward with deep interest to the publication of the report of the Commissioners, and of the evidence on which that report will be founded; and with even a deeper interest to the treatment which that report shall receive at the hands of the Government and the Legislature.

The objects, duties and powers of the Commissioners as laid down by Earl Granville do that nobleman the highest honour; and we venture to hope that the result of the investigation will be that this new and vile form of Slavery under another name will be dealt with as it deserves.



# THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, THE EASTERN FRONTIER, AND SIR H. BARKLY.

SIR HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., went out in the *Northam*, at the end of November, as successor to Sir Philip Wodehouse, in the Governorship of the Cape of Good Hope, and as High Commissioner in South Africa.

On Wednesday, Nov. 23rd, a large number of influential gentlemen interested in British South Africa presented a congratulatory address to Sir Henry, at the Royal Colonial Institute, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, on his appointment. Lord Bury, president of the Institute, presented, and A. Hamilton, Esq., headed, the deputation; the latter reading the memorial, and Sir Henry reading his reply. A copy of each is given below.

This colony is reviving, after many years of depression, (1) from over speculation, (2) from the monetary crisis of 1866, (3) from alterations in the wine duties, and (4) from drought. The seasons latterly have been propitious; the colonists seek the substitution of some other industry for the growth of wine, in addition to wool growing. The growth of Zante currants and Sultana raisins was named, and great hope is expressed that an impetus will be gained from the recent marvellous discoveries of precious minerals.

The memorialists assure the new Governor that any measures he may devise for the civilisation among the surrounding aborigines will be zealously supported by them; and they express their "sincere hope and belief that great progress will be made, under Sir Henry's able guidance, in the prosperity of the Colony, and the extension of civilisation and Christianity over South Africa."

The memorialists express the hope that "the blessings of peace and security which they enjoy should be extended to the rich and fertile districts of the Orange and Vaal rivers, in case the inhabitants thereof, owing to their present unsatisfactory political condition, should manifest a disposition once more to place themselves under British rule." Sir Henry's reply to this is significant. He says, "Should it be the desire of other adjacent communities, of whatever origin, to share in the great and numerous benefits accruing from connection with Great Britain, *I am certain* that the co-operation of the Government will not be wanting to any plan that can be arranged for the establishment of a South African Federation, upon the principle of that recently so happily adopted in the case of the dominion of Canada."

Sir John Swinburne delivered a tren-

chant speech, and elicited warm cheers when he predicted that Sir Henry's appointment would be beneficial in adjusting and arbitrating knotty points in the northern states, which were governed by two Dutch governments, or, he might say, "not governed at all;" and Mr. J. Paterson evoked applause when he stated that many influential men believed that some change was desirable in the constitution of South Africa; and it had been held by colonists that the federal system was necessary.

Sir Henry, it will be seen, believes that "the wonderful discoveries, in particular of precious stones on the banks of the Vaal River, taken in connection with the presumed vast extent of the diamondiferous region, seem calculated not merely to give a temporary stimulus to agriculture and commerce, but to advance the settlement and civilisation of the interior of Africa with a rapidity of which, before, we could not have ventured to dream."

The new Governor of the Cape spoke very modestly, but decisively, of his own purposes to forward, by all means in his power, with the co-operation of others, the best interests of the colonists and the natives.

Should these rational purposes and expectations be realised, we trust that the kidnapping and otherwise enslaving of young Africans by the people of the Transvaal Republic and others, will not merely cease, but that those held in bondage may be liberated. There is difficulty especially in bringing home the guilt of Slavery to subjects of the British Crown on territories unattached to any existing governments; but that Slavery does exist among the Boors, and that the guilt of Slavery and the Slave-trade does attach to our fellow-subjects alluded to above, does not admit of reasonable doubt.

We should gather from the tone of the whole proceedings on the day of presentation—from the structure of the address and the reply—and from the disposition of the home authorities to give large powers to Colonial Governors—raising and sustaining them above the narrow oppressiveness of local officialism, selfishness and bigotry—that at no distant day, beneath the broad ægis of a South African Federation, freedom, civilisation, commerce, and Christianity may flourish together.

Sir Henry Barkly has had a good deal of Colonial experience—in British Guiana, in Jamaica, in Victoria, and in the Mauritius; and we sincerely trust, that while Sir John P. Grant, by force of character, by impartiality in reference to sources of inquiry and to courses of action, by breadth of views, by promptitude, by taking harsh criticisms smilingly, and evincing and in-

spiring hopefulness, has turned one of the Colonies above named from a state of ruin to one of prosperity,—under Sir Henry Barkly, the Cape, which is evincing symptoms of real revival under its manifold causes of depression, may become all that its best friends desire.

We have good reason, any way, for believing that Sir Henry Barkly will do the best in his power for the protection of the natives—a matter of great importance in looking to a federal scheme, and especially regard being had to what is deemed of indispensable consequence to the development of the resources and prosperity of the Colony, viz.—the opening up of further communications into the interior.

#### ADDRESS.

"London, 9th November, 1870.

"To His Excellency,

"SIR HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., &c. &c.

"Sir,—We the undersigned merchants of the City of London, interested in the trade of the Cape of Good Hope, and others, beg to offer to your Excellency our congratulations upon your appointment as Governor of that Colony, and to express our best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and Lady Barkly, who accompanies you to South Africa.

"We are persuaded that the arrival of your Excellency in the Colony will be hailed with satisfaction by the inhabitants, who, as loyal subjects of Her Majesty, are fully sensible of the great and numerous benefits arising from their connection with the mother country.

"Any measures that your Excellency may devise for advancing the interests of the country under your rule, and for the furtherance of civilisation among the neighbouring aborigines, will be zealously supported by the Colonists; and while the Colony advances in wealth and prosperity, it is the earnest desire of the Colonists that the blessings of peace and security which they now enjoy should be extended to the rich and fertile districts of the Orange and Vaal rivers, in case the inhabitants thereof, owing to their present unsatisfactory political condition, should manifest a wish to place themselves once more under British rule.

"After many years of difficulties and distress, the Cape Colony seems again to have a prospect of returning prosperity. The seasons have lately been propitious, while further improvements may be hoped from the impetus to be gained from the recent marvellous discoveries of precious minerals.

"There is, however, one industry of vital importance to a portion of the Colony, namely,—the growth of wine, which is now in a very depressed condition, owing mainly to the alteration in Home duties.

"We are convinced that your Excellency will sympathise with the sufferers, and seek a remedy, if possible, for any impediment under which they labour, as well as foster any endeavour to substitute some other industry for

the growth of wine, on which they have hitherto depended.

"We believe it is unnecessary to dwell further upon the position and prospects of a Colony so well known as the Cape of Good Hope, especially to one whose varied experience in Colonial government will enable him readily to appreciate the acquirements of the people over whom he is called to rule.

"We therefore, Sir, take leave of you, again expressing our best wishes for your health and happiness, and our sincere hope and belief that great progress will be made under your able guidance in the prosperity of the Colony, and the extension of civilisation and Christianity over South Africa.

"We have the honour to remain, your

"Excellency's most humble, obedient servants,

"A. Hamilton, G. Thompson, F. G. Goodliffe, A. Smart, J. O. Borradaile, G. B. Tremenhere, A. Mosenthal, C. Ellis, Benjamin B. Greene, B. Greene, G. E. Breffit, F. Edinborough, F. C. Drummond, J. P. Tate, Gledstanes & Co., The Cape Railway Co., per J. Borradaile, Chairman, and G. L. Browne, Managing Director, J. King, R. Blakemore, W. A. Richards, J. Swinburn, Bart., J. H. Pawson & Co., J. King, F. Collison, H. Blaine, J. Holmes, H. Maynard, A. McDonald, W. M. James, W. Nicol, W. J. Adams, J. D. Ronaldson, J. Bergtheil, J. Mosenthal, J. Paterson, G. Greig, A. Foulger, R. Trotter, A. W. Fletcher, G. H. Donaldson, W. F. Searle, J. T. Rennie, J. Shepherd, R. Hamilton, S. J. Helm, Cook, Son & Co., E. A. Pontifex, Chairman Cape Copper Mining Company, Limited, J. R. Thomson, J. O. Smith, R. White, J. H. Watson, H. W. Maynard, H. S. Mackenzie, J. Holland, T. M. L. Maclear, J. H. Lance, J. Bisset, W. Savage, L. B. Twentymen, J. W. Wilborne, A. & W. Nesbitt, E. Weston, S. B. Edinborough, D. Mackenzie, G. C. Frames, W. Dunn, H. C. Collison, A. Sherman, C. W. Hutton, Keen, Robinson, Bellville & Co., J. J. Barry, H. Clapperton, J. Searight, H. C. Jarvis, C. Fraser, C. Buska, W. Falconer, H. Ellis, Junior, J. Perrott, J. A. Guthrie, G. H. Payne, W. G. Soper, T. T. Mercer, W. J. Mackenzie, D. Bain, W. J. Anderson, J. S. M. Brown, J. Mandy, J. Ayliff, J. Tilbrook, J. A. Steel, Heideman, Hayton & Co., T. Hill, C. W. Sleet, M. L. Bensuear, J. Blyth."

#### SIR HENRY BARKLY'S REPLY.

"It gives me much gratification to receive this address, and to make the acquaintance of so many gentlemen interested in the Cape Colony. Those connected with our colonies who reside at home have it in their power, especially at the present moment, to render important assistance to persons like myself entrusted with the duties and responsibilities of

colonial administration, by urging on the one hand the just claims of their fellow-colonists to sympathy and support, whilst keeping their correspondents, on the other hand, correctly informed of the progress of opinion in the mother country on questions of colonial policy, and preparing them for changes sooner or later inevitable in the political relations heretofore subsisting between the different portions of this vast empire. It is very satisfactory to me to receive the assurances which you offer, both as to the cordial welcome which awaits me on my arrival at Cape Town as Her Majesty's representative, and the high appreciation which the colonists there entertain of the great and numerous benefits accruing to them from their connection with Great Britain. Should it be the desire of other adjacent communities, of whatever origin, to share in these benefits, I feel certain that the co-operation of the Imperial Government will not be wanting to any plan that can be arranged for the establishment of a South African Federation, upon the principle of that recently so happily adopted in the case of the Dominion of Canada, under which each State retains the fullest powers of self-government compatible with federal action on matters relating to external commerce and defence, and with that union with the British Empire which all so warmly desire to uphold. I rejoice with you to think that the difficulties with which the Cape colonists have had of late years to contend, owing to bad seasons and other untoward circumstances, are for the most part disappearing, and that bright gleams of future prosperity now gild the horizon. The wonderful discoveries, in particular, of precious stones on the banks of the Vaal River, taken in connection with the presumed vast extent of the diamondiferous region, seem calculated not merely to give a temporary stimulus to agriculture and commerce, but to advance the settlement and civilisation of the interior of South Africa, with a rapidity of which before we could not have ventured to dream. Although I trust that the branch of industry to which you specially allude will not long form an exception to the general improvement, I regret to learn that the depressed condition of the wine-growers is attributable to the alteration of the import duties in this country ten years ago. It was certainly unfortunate that the limit of strength then fixed for the shilling duty was so low as to deprive even the unfertilized produce of South African and Australian vineyards of the benefits of the reduction, and, by leaving them subject to the old duty of half-a-crown per gallon, virtually to impose on them in the British market a differential rate of 150 per cent., as against a large class of foreign wines. Until the state of the finances enables Her Majesty's Government, as I hope it will speedily do, to perfect that most wise and salutary measure, which has done so much to check the increasing consumption of ardent spirits, by admitting everything that can fairly be called wine at a low uniform duty, it seems to me a simple act of justice that a mean rate of duty should be established for wines of medium

strength. You may rely upon it that the strongest representations on my part will not be omitted on this and all other questions where the interests of any portion of the colonists are concerned, and I shall be too happy if my advocacy should prove of avail, or my experience be of service in suggesting a remedy. I have only, in conclusion, to thank you, on behalf of Lady Barkly, as well as of myself, for the kind wishes expressed for our health and happiness.

"HENRY BARKLY.

"London, Nov. 23rd, 1870."

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#### THE DIAMOND FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE question of the ownership of the diamond fields has occupied no little attention, and the attitude assumed by the acting Lieutenant-Governor of the Cape and High Commissioner has not tended to lessen the interest taken in the subject. The diggings on one side of the river are claimed as Free State property, whilst the Transvaal Government claim the ownership of the land on the other side of the Vaal. Lieutenant-General Hay, as acting Lieutenant-Governor of the Cape, has written to both these Governments, cautioning them as to the steps they may be advised to take. The interference of the British Government is nominally made on behalf of Captain Waterboer, a native chieftain, but it is well known that mere friendship for Waterboer would not have induced the English Government to interfere, and there is little doubt that the valuable discoveries at the diamond fields will not only be a great advantage to South Africa commercially, but also have a material, and, we may hope, beneficial effect upon South African politics.—*Times of Natal*.

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#### QUEENSLAND AND THE POLYNESIAN SLAVE-TRADE.

THE following is an abridgment of a letter from an intelligent and reliable correspondent in Queensland:—

(To the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*.)

Dear Sir,—Just now we are in a worse state than we were; labour is required, and many do not care how it is obtained. The prices of Polynesians, as I gather from various sources, are £3 at New Caledonia for two years, £7 in 1867 in Queensland for three years, and £10 in 1870 in Queensland for three years, for men bespoke before voyage; £12 by same ship for men not bespoke; £8 at Fiji for five years, and £6 at Fiji for three years, wages to be agreed—on delivery.



I have been to the houses of sailors who have sailed in this trade—one of whom was wounded in forcing men below hatches—but they will not come forward as witnesses. I get the admission that they knew "it was a dirty trade," but they were well and honestly paid, and now they will not tell, but say they will not go again. Now, you see we can learn and perceive the facts of the trade, but cannot prove them legally. I think the captain and supercargo share the profits, and the sailors are paid £2 to £4 per month extra to be quiet.

Recently the traders are putting Queensland quite at a disadvantage; native sailors are now left at the islands. You see the white crews can tell any lies they like, and it is written down, and then called an official report. The Government, I believe, have no interpreters. The ships are now attending to plenty of sailing power to escape from the cruisers. The sources from which I did get information are now stopped, and Queensland cannot ascertain how the men are got save by a stray hint now and then.

Now it is true that some Polynesians have been well treated, and that some do like to come, and I cannot say that is wrong. My private opinion is, that if the trade continues, it ought to be only allowed to be carried on by the Government, and not by private traders, as is done by the French at New Caledonia; and put a Government agent on board at a fixed salary to engage the men, and only pay £3 or £4 for passage. The fictitious passage-money is a sale of the man for so many years, and the profit induces the trade.

It is rumoured that America is about to take Fiji: it wants to unite itself to some power. We hope for the best; some good has been done here, but great watchfulness is needed still.

*October 1st, 1870.*

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#### ST. THOMAS.

THE Governor of the island has issued a proclamation placing the island again under the protection of Denmark, in consequence of the failure of the United States to ratify the treaty of transfer. He promises important reforms in the administration of the island.

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THE INDIANS.—It is fully believed at the Department of the Interior that the appointment of "Friends" as Indian agents to various tribes has been of great advantage both to the Indians and the Government.—*American Missionary.*

## The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

DECEMBER 31, 1870.

### TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS AND READERS.

THE year 1870 has been one of much solicitude and interest in relation to the Anti-Slavery cause.

Slavery still exists in the Spanish Antilles, in Brazil, and it is incorporated with the religious, social, and domestic life of many people. The Slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa is still relentlessly carried on: Arab, East Indian, European, and others, being more or less involved in the traffic. As to South Africa the language of some portion of the Cape press has aroused the wholesome vigilance and fears of philanthropists both there and in England. We know that Polynesians are kidnapped, and, under the form of immigration, sold into slavery. The Coolie trade and Coolie treatment are undergoing the scrutiny of an official investigation, and many of its repulsive features have been brought strongly into view.

We regret to say, that at the present moment the same active vigilance which the Anti-Slavery cause has so long demanded at the hands of its friends admits of no relaxation.

We are thankful to our friends, both at home and abroad, for their valuable intelligence, suggestions, and co-operation; and hope still to be cheered and sustained by their practical sympathy.

Subscriptions for 1871 are now due, and the Committee will be thankful if forwarded early to the Honorary Secretaries, Joseph Cooper, Edmund Sturge, and Robert Alsop, Honorary Secretaries; or to Thomas Phillips, Assistant Secretary, 27, New Broad Street, London, E.C. Cheques to be made payable to order, and Post Office Orders at the General Post Office.

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#### SLAVERY IN THE SPANISH COLONIES.

WE give below a communication which has been received from the Spanish Government by Earl Granville, in reply to our

remarks on the Spanish Scheme of Abolition which has recently been passed by the Cortes; prefaced by an introductory note from Earl Granville, and succeeded by a rejoinder to Señor Moret's statements.

*"Foreign Office, September 20, 1870.*

"SIR,—I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Anti-Slavery Society, a translation of a paper which has been received from the Spanish Government, in answer to the comments made by the Society in their letters of the 15th and 27th of June last, upon the recent measures for the abolition of Slavery in the Spanish Colonies.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient, humble servant,  
"ARTHUR OTWAY.

"J. Cooper, Esq.,

"Essex Hall, Walthamstow."

[COPY.]

"The Spanish Government feels itself called upon to express its gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for the worthy and friendly manner in which the illustrious Lord Clarendon, on the occasion of the presentation of the exposition which the English Abolitionist Society placed in the hands of His Excellency, defended the conduct and motives of Spain in the Slavery question. The Government of His Highness the Regent, in so doing, and as the most proper means of corresponding to such a mark of esteem, have had the honour to place before Her Britannic Majesty a confidential document, which plainly shows the intention and resolution of the present Government to put an end to the Slavery question. These proofs are certainly not required by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, but, as persons whom the Government qualifies as worthy of respect have doubted, on two separate occasions, with more zeal than justice, the intentions of the Government and of the Spanish Assembly, it will be necessary and highly proper that Her Britannic Majesty's Government should be able to support the favourable opinion they have pronounced.

"The Spanish Government is sorry to say that the manner in which the Society permits itself to judge the law voted by the Constituent Cortes is not only unjust, but completely misplaced, in persons who must be supposed to know this question, and who should be animated by the best intentions with regard to the Governments and Assemblies which contribute to the disappearance of slavery.

"And the best proof that can be given of this ignorance of facts is contained in the forgetfulness of a very important circumstance. The Government of England has worked for many years to obtain the abolition of the Slave-trade, and in its relations with Spain it had succeeded in getting African negroes, who might be landed in Cuba, declared free and sent back to their country. But these resolutions had not been fulfilled, and in spite of

the constant complaints of the English Government, the African negroes landed in Cuba were in a situation worse than that of the slaves themselves, viz. in the situation known as that of 'Emancipados.' The promise alone of putting an end to that situation produced for the Spanish Government a few years ago great praise, and proofs of sympathy, from the English Government, and it therefore seems natural that when, by means of a law, and in a definitive manner, justice is done to the old International conventions, and to the complaints of England, that act should be esteemed at least in a manner proportionate to the importance given to it by England. The Spanish Government thinks, therefore, that the persons who have written the words qualifying the law as unjust, have not, however worthy of respect they may be, studied this question with the fulness required by the step they have taken *vis-à-vis* Her Britannic Majesty's Minister.

"On the other hand, a law of much less importance, for it only gave liberty to those born, gave Bolivar the good repute and consideration of all the civilised world; and as it resulted in the extinction of slavery in several of the South American Republics, it has shown that such a disposition is one of the most energetic abolitionist measures. Therefore the most simple logic demanded that the project of law presented by the Spanish Government should have been judged in the same manner, and that it should not have been denied that it must produce the same results, but in a quicker way, than the law of Bolivar.

"But, apart from these considerations, which, being grave and important, the Government was bound to present first, it is very certain, as the illustrious Lord Clarendon stated to the Committee, that the true merit of the conduct of the Spanish Government consisted in having entered upon Abolition in the midst of a struggle, and when the interests opposed thereto might bring forward very powerful reasons for putting off the solution.

"Besides, it cannot be denied that abolitionist opinion in Cuba is very weak, and in proof thereof, it must be remembered that the insurgents themselves, who have proclaimed it as an indispensable means of obtaining sympathy, do not carry it out; of this there are conclusive proofs in the documents published by the Abolitionist Society itself, and in those written by the Spanish Government in the Habana. Even supposing there were no respectable interests on the side of the maintenance of slavery, it is undoubted that the transformation about to be suffered by production in Cuba demands sacrifices which make the attitude of the Peninsular party in that island truly patriotic, and give a right to the conduct of the Government to be regarded with sympathy. In spite of this, the Government has not entered upon that question, but, having given the law, has demanded the co-operation of the proprietors in total and complete abolition. This co-operation has been granted, and at this moment the Government, made strong by public opinion, is

preparing the means of presenting complete abolition to the next Assembly.

"Mr. Layard, the worthy representative of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, can, in his turn, communicate data which have been afforded to him by the Minister of the Colonies, and which prove the sincerity of the conduct of the Government and the energy of its intentions.

"Certainly it did not appear probable to the Government of His Highness, that, on deciding themselves to solve so grave a question under such difficult circumstances (which conduct has procured for them the sympathy of all Governments, and especially of Her Britannic Majesty's Government), they could not only be accused of injustice, but also have their good faith put in doubt; but such an accusation, devoid of all proof and all foundation, shows that *amour propre* mixes itself up even in the largest questions, which ought apparently to be the furthest removed from narrow motives, and helps to distort the great object of the work of humanity, removing help and support from those who propose to carry it out. The illustrious Lord Clarendon has already brought this consideration forward, and added this last proof of affection towards Spain to the many he had already given.

"The Government of His Highness hope that Her Britannic Majesty will continue to afford them the same sympathy, and that, as they now know all the antecedents of this matter, they will sustain the opinions expressed by the illustrious Minister of Her Britannic Majesty lately deceased.

"(Signed) S. MORET.

"Madrid, August 12, 1870."

#### REJOINDER.

To the Right Honourable the Earl Granville, K.G., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society beg to thank Earl Granville for his courtesy in forwarding to them a copy of the letter of Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister for the Colonies, and ask to be allowed to make a few remarks upon His Excellency's statements.

It is perfectly true that the late lamented Earl of Clarendon, on the occasion alluded to, spoke in very high terms of the present Government of Spain, and expressed his confident anticipation that it would abolish slavery throughout the Spanish dominions.

But whilst thus expressing his regard for the Spanish Government, and his great satisfaction that it had entered upon the work of Emancipation, his Lordship spoke of the proposed measure which has since been passed into a law as "insufficient," and even with the amendments as still "unsatisfactory."

Señor Moret is mistaken in supposing that the Anti-Slavery Committee is igno-

rant of the fact that the British Government has laboured many years with Spain to obtain the fulfilment of the treaties for the abolition of the slave-trade, and for the purpose also of obtaining justice for the emancipado class, which they observe the minister himself now says have been in a situation worse than that of the slaves themselves.

The remark of the Committee on the clause of the Act which deals with this class was not that it was unjust, but that it was "of a decidedly illusory character," and they stated the facts on which this judgment was founded.

The emancipado class, if it were possible to distinguish all the individuals composing it, is very large; but, by the systematic substitution of living emancipados for dead slaves, they had to a very large extent been absorbed into the slave-population. So far, therefore, as this is the case, the clause will be inoperative, and therefore, as the Committee stated, "essentially illusory."

This class, as well as the great bulk of the slaves now in Cuba, introduced in violation of the Slave-Trade Treaties with Great Britain, can only receive justice by a measure of complete emancipation.

The allusion by the minister to General Bolivar's measure appears to us peculiarly inappropriate.

It is nearly fifty years since that great man engaged in the work. At that distant period the evils of slavery were comparatively little known, and the public agitation for the abolition of Slavery had not even commenced in England, much less in any of the European States.

Any statesman dealing with the question of slavery at this day has an immeasurable advantage over Bolivar, whose Act was passed in the year 1821.

The utter failure of apprenticeship in the British West Indies on the one hand, and the perfect success of immediate emancipation by France and by Holland on the other, are events fraught with the most important instruction. But Bolivar had no such examples to guide or assist him.

We are not sure that we comprehend Señor Moret's meaning when he states that his own measure "must produce the same results, but in a quicker way than the law of Bolivar." Bolivar's Act, passed the 21st July, 1821, declared that all slaves born after that date should be born absolutely free, and that the children then in existence should be free also on attaining the age of fourteen.

But Señor Moret's Act, in dealing with the latter class, holds the children, except in case of marriage, to forced servitude till the age of 22. Under these circumstances



the Committee are unable to see on what grounds the opinion is founded by Señor Moret that his measure will be a "quicker way" of giving freedom to this class.

But General Bolívar did much more than merely pass the measure alluded to. One of his first acts was to give liberty to his own slaves, numbering 800, and to persuade his countrymen to do the same. Other Acts were passed, and on one memorable occasion he concluded an address in these words:—"Finally, I beseech my brethren never to allow any distinction in colour to make any political difference between them." A detailed account of the beneficial results of Bolívar's Acts was sent home in a dispatch by H. G. Ward, the British Envoy, dated from Mexico, 13th March, 1826, which concludes with these words:—

"The most remarkable circumstance, however, is the total abolition of slavery in a district where such a mass of colonial fruits is produced; and the success with which the introduction of free labour has been attended; it is this which has induced me to lay these observations before His Majesty's Government."

The Spanish Colonial Minister estimates Abolitionist opinion in Cuba to be very weak, and sees a proof of this in the fact that the insurrectionists have not been able to carry out their proclamation. But it does not seem surprising to us that they have been unable to carry it out, seeing that they have been at war for almost two years with the Pro-Slavery party, aided by all the power of the Government of Spain.

Lastly, the minister alludes to the position of peculiar difficulty in which the Government of Spain is placed in its present relations with Cuba.

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society is deeply sensible that their position has now become one of extreme difficulty. But they venture to believe that this difficulty might have been entirely avoided.

When the revolution occurred in 1868, the Anti-Slavery Society ventured most respectfully to suggest to the Provisional Government the necessity and wisdom of immediate emancipation, so wisely and successfully adopted by the Provisional Government of France in 1848.

The Act of Immediate Emancipation by France, and at a later period that of Holland, were attended with the most perfect success.

Still more recently has the soundness of this course been proved on the grandest scale. Emancipation, sudden and complete, was effected in the United States amidst all the disorders of a tremendous civil war; yet *the production of cotton and sugar in the former slave states of the Union*

*during the year 1869-70, has been one of the largest ever known.*

The people in all parts of Spain urged a similar course on their Provisional Government in 1868.

There was at that time a general impression in Cuba that Slavery could no longer be maintained.

Had the Provisional Government then responded to the voice of the people of Spain, and proclaimed perfect freedom and equal rights to all parties in Cuba and Porto Rico, they might have averted those frightful atrocities and the fearful carnage which have devastated Cuba ever since their accession to power.

All past experience has shown that half measures only aggravate the evils of slavery. While they interfere with the power which extracts labour from the slave, they fail to supply the motives which create the more effective labour of freemen.

We rejoice in Señor Moret's assurance that the Spanish Government desires at length to fulfil its treaty-engagements with Great Britain; and as a large proportion of those now in slavery in Cuba are entitled under these engagements to freedom, we trust that Señor Moret will see that their fulfilment is only now possible through a measure of complete emancipation.

Without such a measure, it is still not unlikely that attempts may again be made to revive the slave-trade to Cuba.

Among the papers recently laid before Parliament is a dispatch from Commissary-Judge Crawford, dated from Cuba in August, 1869, the concluding words of which claim the serious attention of both the British and Spanish Governments:—

"There is a suspicion that a revival of the horrible traffic in African negroes is not unlikely, and there is no doubt that the ultra-Spanish party in Cuba are all slave-traders at heart, and that they will renew it, with all its horrors, should the present struggle for liberty which is now going on in the island be successfully repressed."

It is a very painful consideration that this is the party for whose predominance in Cuba Spain is impoverishing her finances, and sacrificing the blood of her sons.

Although Señor Moret seems to differ so much from the Committee, it does not appear to us that he has invalidated a single fact or opinion they have advanced.

We are glad, however, to be able to congratulate Señor Moret on the abolition of the lash. We honour him and the Cortes for this measure of humanity.

We have not seen the confidential document to which His Excellency alludes in the opening paragraph of his communication to Her Majesty's Government; but

we should rejoice to be enabled to congratulate Señor Moret on the accomplishment—to use the words of the late Lord Clarendon—of “the complete abolition of slavery throughout the Spanish dominions.” On such a course we believe the Divine blessing would abundantly rest.

On behalf of the Committee,

We are, with great respect,

JOSEPH COOPER, }  
EDMUND STURGE, } Hon. Secs.  
ROBERT ALSOP, }

No. 27, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

### SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society having heard of the arrival in this country of the Count d'Eu, heir-apparent of His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, presented to His Royal Highness an address, of which the following is a copy, together with the Count's reply:—

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE LOUIS OF ORLEANS, COMTE D'EU.

SIR,—The Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, established for the purpose of promoting by pacific means the total abolition of Slavery and the Slave-trade throughout the world, are glad to avail themselves of the auspicious presence in this country of your Royal Highness to give expression to their ardent desire for the complete abolition of Slavery in the great empire of Brazil, with which you are so illustriously connected.

They have at various times learnt that your honoured Father, His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, is sincerely desirous to see the great country over which he rules purged from the crime and curse of Slavery.

They also rejoice to know that the decree which recently declared Slavery for ever abolished on the Paraguayan soil was your Royal Highness's work.

It is, moreover, a great satisfaction to them that the public conscience in Brazil has been stirred in this subject, and that a strong desire has sprung up among all classes for the entire abolition of Slavery.

It is a solemn consideration that a very large number, probably little if at all short of one million, of those now held in slavery in Brazil, were introduced by the slave-trade carried on between the years 1831 and 1850, at which time, by the treaty of 1826 between Brazil and Great Britain, the trade was illegal. It cannot be denied that, by these treaty rights with Great Britain, these, with their descendants, are entitled to unconditional and immediate emancipation.

It is our earnest desire that Brazil may

make no mistake in dealing with Slavery. All past experience has shown the immense superiority of immediate over all gradual and temporising schemes of emancipation. The attempts made by Great Britain to extinguish the evil gradually, proved a signal failure; whilst immediate emancipation, adopted by France, and Holland, and the United States of America, has been attended by perfect success.

In the country last-named, as your Royal Highness is probably aware, the production of cotton and sugar in the former slave-states of the Union during the years 1869-70, has been one of the largest ever known—and yet emancipation, sudden and complete, was effected, amidst all the disorders of a tremendous civil war, which, with all its terrible consequences, might have been averted, had the claims of righteousness and humanity been attended to in time.

Although thus pointing out the superior commercial advantages of complete over all partial and imperfect measures of emancipation, the Committee rests its plea on those inalienable rights of man to personal liberty which never can be abrogated by any pecuniary and commercial considerations.

We are,

On behalf of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,

Your Royal Highness's

humble, obedient servants,  
JOSEPH COOPER, }  
EDMUND STURGE, } Honorary  
ROBERT ALSOP. } Secretaries.

27, New Broad Street, London,  
October 24th, 1870.

REPLY.

Bushey Park, Teddington,  
29th October, 1870.

SIR,—Complying with your wishes, I have had the honour to lay before His Royal Highness the Count d'Eu, the Address presented by the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society, and am happy to say that His Royal Highness was very gratified by the kind expressions directed to him, and more especially by the just appreciation of the philanthropic sentiments of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and the Brazilian Nation.

Ordered by His Royal Highness to return thanks, may I be permitted to subjoin my respects to the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society, and pray you to believe me,

SIR,

Your faithful and obedient servant,  
VISCOUNT DE LAGES.

JOSEPH COOPER, Esq.,  
Hon. Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

## IRRIGATION IN JAMAICA.

THE ruined condition of Jamaica previously to emancipation, arising from the abolition of the West India sugar monopoly, the general abandonment of the cultivation of estates by the mortgagees on receiving the compensation money, the consequent demoralisation of labour, and long years of misgovernment and misapplication of the revenues of the island, culminating in the deplorable riots of 1865, have long rendered this colony, once by far the foremost in commercial importance, an argument against Negro Emancipation to those who are unable to trace these results to their true causes.

For this reason, the Committee have felt, under the present happier *regime* in that island, that any efforts which they can legitimately put forth in advancing the material and social condition of the people, will tend to remove this argument from the opponents of freedom in slave-holding countries. It is thus that they refer with pleasure to the action of the Government in a department which might otherwise be deemed somewhat foreign to their object.

A few days since Mr. Sturge received from the Colonial Office, a letter, of which the following is a copy, enclosing the *Jamaica Gazette*, containing an elaborate report on the water supply of the island generally, by the Hon. Colonel Mann, Director of Roads and Surveyor-General, from which we give extracts, which will be read with interest.

"Downing Street, 7th December, 1870.

"SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 29th of September, 1869, on the subject of the water supply in Jamaica, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Report by the Director of Roads and Surveyor-General in that Colony, and to state that at the desire of Governor Sir J. Grant, his Lordship is about to procure an officer conversant with Irrigation works in India to serve in Jamaica.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

"Edmund Sturge, Esq."

## EXTRACTS.

"The three plains of Liguanea, Saint Catherine, and Clarendon, are the only districts in the island which require, and are susceptible of, improvement by irrigation on a scale of any importance.

"In seasons of fair average rainfall it cannot be said that much inconvenience is suffered anywhere from want of water; but periodically a dry season, or perhaps several dry seasons in succession occur, when great inconvenience, and often suffering and loss, are sustained chiefly by those residing on the limestone for-

mation, but also by those on some parts of the plains.

"At such times the ponds are dried up, and the tanks with which the better class of houses in the limestone districts are provided become exhausted; cattle have to be sent many miles to find water, and the provision grounds are burnt up and crops destroyed."

"The limestone districts which most require a better water supply are naturally those parts of the formation most remote from the trap or other water-bearing strata, and notably, therefore, the greater part of the parishes of Manchester and St. Ann, as marked on the map forwarded by Mr. Sturge, to which may be added the south-eastern part of the parish of S. Elizabeth."

"In the three plains of Clarendon, Saint Catherine, and Liguanea, water can always be reached by sinking wells to a depth varying from thirty feet to one hundred feet, excepting in situations where the limestone is too near to the surface, the cost being from about twenty shillings to forty shillings per foot, according to the depth.

"The lower and eastern part of the Clarendon plain (the district of Vere), where water is not far from the surface, is fairly supplied for ordinary purposes, but the want of a sufficient supply for irrigation makes the produce of the sugar crops uncertain."

"It is said that in this highly-cultivated district not more than one crop in three, on an average, yields full returns, on account of a want of rain at the proper season; but the returns of a good year are so ample as to more than cover the deficiencies of the two unprofitable years.

"If this statement is correct, it can be judged how great would be the advantage in that district of irrigating. It would make the produce of every crop a certainty, and would multiply the present profit threefold."

"In the plain of Liguanea a part is already supplied, and some of it irrigated, by means of the canal from the Hope River, which supplies Kingston.

"The supply might be largely increased here by merely adding to the reservoir, by which means a vast quantity of water might be impounded during the rainy seasons. In this way the whole of the lower part of the plain might be brought under irrigation, and large tracts near Kingston, which are now valueless, might be made profitable."

"The arrangement which I understand His Excellency the Governor to have made for procuring the services of an engineer, especially experienced in the subject, will be of the utmost service to the island."

GEORGE RICE, of Newport, R. I., who graduated recently at Dartmouth College, has been refused admission to a medical school in New York on account of colour. He has sailed for Europe to enter a better institution in Edinburgh.



## DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

## RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.

	£	s.	d.
Anonymous (per Joseph Cooper) . . . . . (don.)	25	0	0
Alsop, Robert, Stoke Newington . . . . . (sub.)	3	0	0
Anstie, George, Devizes . . . . . "	0	4	0
Baker, James, York . . . . . "	0	5	0
Binns, Thomas, Bristol (for Polynesian Slave-Trade) . . . . . "	25	0	0
Bottomley, John, Birmingham . . . . . "	1	0	0
Brewin, Thomas, Cirencester Auxiliary . . . . . "	10	0	0
Brown, Henry, Luton . . . . . "	1	0	0
Charleton, Robert, Bristol . . . . . "	50	0	0
Charleton, Robert, ditto (for Demerara Commission) . . . . . (don.)	25	0	0
Clarke, James, Street . . . . . (sub.)	0	5	0
Clark, Joseph, Southampton . . . . . "	0	10	6
Cook, Isaac B., Liverpool . . . . . "	0	10	0
Ellis, Mrs. P., Leicester . . . . . "	0	4	0
Fawcus, Mrs., North Shields . . . . . "	0	10	0
Fitzgerald, J. P., Castle Irwell . . . . . "	0	10	0
Forster, Robert, Tottenham . . . . . "	1	1	0
Hewson, J., Belfast . . . . . "	0	10	0
Husbands, Wm., Barbadoes (per W. H. Austin) . . . . . "	0	10	0
Kenway, James, Neath . . . . . "	0	10	0
Miller, Joseph, Whitehaven . . . . . "	0	10	0
Palmer, George, Reading (for Polynesian Slave Trade) . . . . . "	20	0	0
Phillips, Thomas . . . . . "	0	10	0
Pim, Jonathan, Esq., M.P., Dublin . . . . . "	1	0	0
Pollard, Wm., Esq., Hertford (don.)	250	0	0
Shewell, Mrs. Elizabeth, Rushmere . . . . . (sub.)	1	0	0
Shewell, Joseph, Colchester . . . . . "	0	10	0
Sturge, George, Esq., Northfleet (for Polynesian Slave Trade) . . . . . (don.)	25	0	0
Veale, Richard, St. Austell (sub.)	1	0	0
Veale, James, ditto . . . . . "	0	10	0
Veale, William, ditto . . . . . "	0	5	0
Walker, Joseph, Birstwith . . . . . "	0	10	0
Weston, William, London . . . . . "	0	10	0
White, William, Waterford . . . . . "	2	0	0
Wigham, Eliza, Edinburgh . . . . . "	1	0	0
Williams, Susan, Edenderry (don.)	0	2	6
Woods, Adam, Dublin . . . . . (sub.)	0	4	0

**SUFFERINGS OF FREEDMEN IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.**—We learn that the suffering in the Shenandoah Valley, especially among the coloured people, from the effects of the recent flood, continues to increase with the approach of winter, notwithstanding the liberal contributions from all parts of the country. It is to be hoped that sufficient donations from the charitable will be received to prevent actual destitution amid the rigours of winter.—*New York Tribune.*

## FREEDMEN'S COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

## COTTON TEST OF NEGRO INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is pleasant to all persons opposed to the accursed system of Slavery, to note every new illustration of the fact, that, even under adverse circumstances to a considerable extent, the Freedmen of America are proving that the sinister predictions of their enemies—of their oppressors—that they would not work in a state of freedom, are falsified by figures, which are incapable of being misunderstood, denied, or explained away. The best men amongst the planters of the Southern States frankly admit that their estimate of the Negro was a fallacious one; that the latter works, and learns, and saves, and gives, so as to place many of the "poor whites" completely at a discount in the market. The Negro wife keeps house, the Negro children are sent to school, and many of the adults go to evening and Sunday schools as well. Notwithstanding the prevalence of *caste*, and Ku-Klux-Klans, and the manifold disadvantages of early slave-life—and that the coloured people were decimated during the civil war by pestilence and famine, the American cotton crop for 1869-70 amounted to 3,154,940 bales—a quantity exceeded only five times, even before the war, viz., in 1852-3, when the figure was 3,262,882; in 1855-6, when it was 3,527,845; in 1858-9, when it was 3,851,481; in 1859-60, when it was 4,669,770; and in 1860-1, when it was 3,656,086.

If it be borne in mind that the South became greatly impoverished by the war, and that a great deal of land went out of cultivation, not because the Negroes would not work, but because large numbers of planters were slain in the war, and that there was not money to employ more labour, then the fact we have quoted as to the production of the year gone by will be seen as fairly indicating a future which, in due time, will very much transcend the past. The Negroes will in far greater numbers, too, become proprietors.

The favouring circumstance of proximity to markets, and facility of transit, will necessarily give the advantage to America for growing and exporting cotton; the coloured people will ever be the great producers; as Great Britain seems still likely to be the great consumer; and we have no doubt that, under improved culture—as to letters, labour, and citizenship—the Negro will otherwise, as well as in cotton statistics, verify the best statements of the friends of religion and humanity.

## SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL LAWS IN THE SOUTH.

"Delaware is without State school supervision, leaving all educational questions to the counties, and having no provision for the blacks; Maryland, though recently revising her laws, educating colored children only in Baltimore; Virginia but just putting a free school law on her statute book; West Virginia upon the point of striking from her system its right arm—county supervision; Kentucky just enacting a new school law, but giving no opportunity for colored youth; Tennessee, after establishing free schools, and assembling in them nearly two hundred thousand children, reversing her course, and providing only for the most inefficient county action outside her largest cities; North Carolina with a school law upon her statute books, but at the close of the last year not a school in the country districts directly under the auspices of the State law; South Carolina but slightly in advance; Georgia with her legislation where it was before the war; Alabama, though with a free school system and one hundred and sixty thousand pupils enrolled, yet with the whole so connected with the old order of private schools as to rob it of much of its freedom of action and prevent its highest usefulness; Florida with a system partly organized, the Legislature adjourning after its late winter session without making any provision for the levy of the school tax; Mississippi just writing its school law; Arkansas with an efficient system, but the schools only partially organized; Louisiana with a system adapted to efficiency, but not more than seventy-five schools reported outside of New Orleans at the date of the last report; Texas without legislation, the Senate refusing to confirm the superintendent nominated by the governor—all over this southern section not only lack of educational sentiment, but positive hostility to instruction and instructors."—*General John Eaton, junior, U. S. Commissioner of Education.*

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### A STRONG APPEAL.

*An Appeal of the Executive Board of the "Friends' Association of Philadelphia and its vicinity for the relief of Coloured Freedmen."*

THE usual time for the reopening of the Freedmen's Schools having arrived, the Executive Committee, in making arrangements for conducting them during the ensuing term, feel it necessary to appeal to all those interested in this great work, for funds to enable them to carry on such schools as may be started.

During the last season the number of

schools in operation was forty-seven, which were supported at an expense of about 21,000 dols. It is our wish, should the contributions warrant it, to sustain this year about twenty-two or three schools, in the more populous districts of central North Carolina and south-western Virginia, and to maintain them in such an efficient manner that from them the country schools may hereafter be supplied with teachers—to encourage and assist such schools as are supported by the freed people themselves, with occasional donations of books and other school material, as may be thought advisable, and as heretofore, to alleviate physical suffering, by such relief as may be in our power.

The Freedmen's Bureau having been discontinued during the present year, the assistance which we have heretofore received from that source will now be cut off, as also any aid from the "Peabody Fund;" therefore, the prosecution of the work will depend entirely upon the liberality of our contributors.

Our treasury is now nearly empty, and, estimating the expenses by those of former years, to carry on the proposed work it will be necessary to raise not less than 10,000 dols.

When the Association commenced its work the great need pressing upon it was to mitigate bodily suffering; but the Freed people having in most cases become more than self-supporting, this work has been gradually superseded by an educational one—numerous schools taught by teachers from the North, and supported chiefly by the Association, were established. Each year the coloured people have done more toward supporting these schools, both by paying part of the expenses and by furnishing teachers from among themselves, so that now we feel that our field has been narrowed to comparatively few schools, designed principally to educate teachers.

Although we feel that our work has lessened, yet we believe that it is not yet accomplished, but that it still appeals strongly for further support.

Contributions will be received by R. Cadbury, Treasurer, No. 111 S. Fourth Street.

*Philadelphia, Tenth Month, 1870.*

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## THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION AND THE FREEDMEN.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the above valuable Association was held at Lawrence, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, November 9th. The various sittings were very largely attended, and were very influ-

entia and enthusiastic in character. Interesting reports relating to the work of the Association among the Freedmen, the Indians, and the Chinese, were read, and a number of eminent men delivered addresses—among whom was General O. O. Howard. We have much pleasure in giving insertion to the following, in reference to

#### THE EDUCATION OF THE FREEDMEN.

"Your Committee have examined with much pleasure and profit that part of the annual report submitted to their consideration. Their approval is, therefore, more than a formal courtesy. We most heartily endorse its plans and suggestions as sound and practical, and worthy of vigorous prosecution.

"*The Common Schools.*—The Common School is the first topic to which our attention is called. Next to consecration and cultivation of the heart, is the culture and drill of the intellect. The Common School, next to the Church and the Christian religion, is the ground of our stability and perpetuity as a government. But the work of supplying the necessary teachers and instruments for a Common School education to the Freedmen is plainly impossible. Were the legislation and sympathies of the South all we could desire, the work is too great, complex and sporadic. We are glad to see, therefore, that the Association works through Common Schools already in operation, and stimulates and directs, so far as it may prudently do so, the creation of a public sentiment in favour of still others.

"*Normal and Training Schools.*—These schools are of prime importance. The warm and sensuous nature of the African race needs, to steady and poise it and make it most effective, the drill of the school. The best agents in this work are the coloured people themselves. It took a half century for the American Board to learn that Native Preachers and Pastors, educated and trained in the Mission Schools and Seminaries, were the best co-labourers.

"We are therefore gratified to know, that the Association thus early adopted the practice of training the coloured men and women of the South to teach their own people. This Association, through their fine High and Normal Schools, is furnishing the needful drill and culture to large classes of young men and women, who go out to the hungry multitude and distribute the bread of intellectual life. They are the most effective teachers; they have the readiest access to their own race and can do a work for them no teachers, sent from the North, can accomplish. We most heartily endorse this feature of the Association's educational work.

"*Colleges.*—The same commendation belongs to its Colleges. The true method is to show

the coloured people the possibilities of their own race, and inspire in them, by visible and living examples, a noble ambition. This, sooner than anything else, will remove unworthy prejudices against them, and raise them to respectability and influence. We most warmly commend this whole subject of the education of the blacks to our Churches. Rather, it commends *itself* to every patriotic and Christian mind and heart. This great people are to be lifted up and made an element of power and strength in this land, or they will become a millstone, hanged about the neck of the Republic. The solution of this prime question is mainly in the hands of this Association. Let it be encouraged and cheered by our Churches, the whole land over. It must be a grateful surprise to the public, as it was to ourselves, to learn the extent of the Society's means and instrumentalities for the prosecution of this grand and vital work. Let them be still more increased and invigorated."

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#### PRESIDENT GRANT AND THE NEGRO.

WE owe it to this good man to say that he has stood from the beginning of his term the unflinching, unfaltering, unwavering friend of the race whom his military academy taught him in his earlier years to hate and despise. In reward of this fidelity, let him receive the honour which belongs to a faithful adherence to a moral principle. A thousand paltry faults in his administration can be pardoned to this one pre-eminent virtue. We have never heard the lips even of the most radical abolitionist accuse President Grant of any treachery to the negro. And he is the only President of the United States, not excluding George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, of whom this high praise can be spoken with equal candour and truth.—*New York Independent.*

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#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FREEDMEN.

##### RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.

	£	s.	d.
William Pollard, Esq. . . . .	105	0	0
Robert Charleton, Esq. . . . .	35	0	0
Henry Brown, Esq., per W. Allen, Esq. . . . .	5	0	0
H. White, Esq., Harbourview, Waterford . . . . .	1	0	0
Per Miss Tregelles, Tottenham	1	0	9